Quarterly Journal of the McHenry County Historical Society & Museum

Tracer

We engage and educate current and future generations by preserving and sharing McHenry County History

Issue 178

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Our NEW *extensive* Nancy Fike interview by Bob Frenz

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NEW Spring 2024 Exhibits

It Would be a Wonder: The Story of Wonder Lake

Wired! Electrifying Rural McHenry County

2024 Museum Hours

Tuesday - Friday 1 - 4 PM
Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM

Save the date: **June 7th**
(Museum Opening Celebration)

Marengo Collegiate Institute

"There is a fine school located here, called the Marengo Collegiate Institute, located under the direction of the Presbytery of Chicago, having a liberal supply of professors and teachers."

-Richard Bishop, Postmaster
Hawes' IL State Gazetteer, 1859

By PAULA RIEGHNS

Running through Marengo is U.S. Highway 20. From the east, it dips down from Coral and continues flat until west of Illinois 23, when the land starts to rise, topping out around West Street. In 1857, this rise was known as "College Hill." Between West Prairie and Washington Streets, just north of Hwy 20, stood a five-story structure of fine, cream-colored West Dundee brick that housed the Marengo Collegiate Institute (MCI), providing higher education to "males and females." ***Or did it?*** The lack of evidence of a building on College Hill have led some to speculate that the Institute was ever more than a dream.

THE PLAN

The 1850s were a heady time for McHenry County. The Black Hawk War had ended a few short years earlier, opening the area to settlement. Towns sprung up across the northern part of the state like mushrooms. Sites that today are almost forgotten – like Greenwood or Chemung – boasted some of the largest populations in McHenry County. Of eighteen townships, Marengo ranked number seven in population with a total of 1,277, according to the United States Census.

Lewis and Clark had returned from their cross continental excursion only a generation earlier. The Civil War was only a few years in the future, and may have contributed to the ultimate demise of the Institute.

And what would a bustling, financially successful, mighty city of just over 1,100 inhabitants need more than a College? The Presbyterian Church in Marengo already ran an academy in the basement of their church building, started by the founder, Reverend George Franklin Goodhue. The *Marengo Republican-News* reported in October 22, 1915 that the Presbyterian Academy had 80 to 120 students in the 1850s. That would mean almost a tenth of the township population was engaged in higher education at just that one institution. That's a very respectful percentage for the time. And, there were other academies in our county, including those located west of Harvard in Lawrence and in Crystal Lake. For comparison, in the 1870s, 20% of the adult population was illiterate and less than two percent of those aged 18-21 attended college [1].

The first mention in any newspaper of the MCI was *The Waukegan Weekly Gazette* for March 10, 1855, where the charter was listed among the acts of the Illinois Legislature. Indeed, in 1855, that body chartered thirteen collegiate institutes, a record [2]. The actual charter passed on February 14, 1855, indicated "the Marengo Collegiate Institute of the Presbytery of Chicago" was granted the right to admit females and males, and all denominations of Christians [3].

Paula is a Marengo attorney, specializing in McHenry, DeKalb & Boone county family law and general civil litigation. She served on the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission from 2016 to 2017, and in 2019 as our Board President after Bob Wagner's untimely passing, She's also our Historic Sites board rep and on our Buildings and Grounds committee. Paula writes: "I love history and especially historical buildings, because they are the foundation of what we do today."

The *Chicago Tribune* wrote glowingly of the healthy,

continued on page 8

The Tracer is our quarterly print journal for members. Published since May 1974, it features society news, photographs, reports and local history articles.

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We were founded in 1963 - Our museum opened July 4, 1976

Our museum campus is located between Routes 20 and 176, at 6422 Main Street in Union, Illinois

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OFFICE HOURS:

Year Around, Monday through Friday - 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

RESEARCH LIBRARY

ONLY by appointment, after completing a research request online.
Free to members, $30 for non-members. Copy & Image fees may apply.

MUSEUM HOURS:

Our museum exhibits are open March through October
1-4 pm - Tuesday through Friday
11 am - 4 pm - Saturday, except major holidays

OUR MISSION and *OUR VISION*

We engage and educate current and future generations by preserving and sharing McHenry County history.

We endeavor to be a hub for collection, preservation and educational outreach reflecting McHenry County's history.

We are a 501(c)3 Illinois nonprofit corporation
We depend on you for our support.
We are not funded by local taxes.
Your membership is appreciated.

To join us in **engaging volunteer opportunities**, contact Janet Barron directly @ 815/923-1261 or email: **volunteer@mchenrycountyhistory.org**

President's Column

From the Board President

When thinking about this past year, I'm struck that this year more than ever has been a year of change and transition for the Society - even more than the pandemic!

Last spring the Society decided that we needed to go in a different direction if we were to grow and thrive. Kurt Begalka, our past Administrator was leaving, and needless to say it was not a smooth transition. We had chosen a gal we thought would be perfect only to learn after a few days on the job that she was taking a different path. Back to the drawing board.

I want to thank our search commitee for their time, insights and patience as this task carried on for about six months. Lots of resumes, interviews, discussions and finally we hired a new Executive Director, Wayne Duerkes, introduced here in our last *Tracer*.

During that six month period, normally our busiest, we had to suspend some programs, such as most of the Sampler lecture series, the Perkins' Players historical re-enactment and our annual Historic Halloween. Our staff carried on with our successful events including Heritage Fair and Cider Fest. In addition, on November 10th we celebrated a landmark anniversary - 60 years as a society. Kudos to everyone involved in this celebration: staff, board, volunteers, sponsors and guests. Not only did everyone have a marvelous time, we also moved our organization forward, we reached out to numerous businesses, both manufacturers and retail shops around the county, We provided valuable exposure to a beautiful venue that offered a tangible example of historic rebirth. The beautiful Crystal Lake Beach House was the venue for our very own Lonni Oldham's parents' wedding. I won't mention how long ago - enough to make the venue historic!

Our Exhibits curator, Kira Stell, has showcased the Anderson Gallery with objects representing our 60 years of existence. In addition, she has created four additional new exhibits:

- **Strike Up the Band**
- **McHenry County Enlists: The Great War, 1914-1918**
- **Bootleggers & Speakeasies: Prohibition in McHenry County**
- **You Auto be in McHenry County**

With Wayne in place, I am looking forward to getting membership and attendance up, exceeding previous years. To accomplish this, I appeal to you, our valued members and friends of history, to spread the word about what the McHenry County Historical Society offers and that we are here, working hard on behalf of our collective history. We marvel all the time just how many of our visitors, who've lived in our county for often many years will say "I didn't know this museum was here!"

Please invite friends and family to join you for a program and to visit our educational exhibits. We are confident that they, too, will see the value of becoming a supporting member.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, board, volunteers, members and donors for getting us through a difficult year. I truly appreciate your patience and continued support of the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum and our increasingly popular local history Research Library, now with a dedicated staff librarian. On behalf of the board, know that we are dedicated to you, resolved to continually move the Society forward - ever mindful of our mission and vision - to be a hub for collection, preservation and educational outreach reflecting McHenry County's history.

Karen Parks

From the Executive Director

Greetings!

As we prepare for 2024 events and beyond, we here at the MCHS are looking to our community for potential speakers on subjects that they are experienced in and that have a connection to McHenry County. You do not need to be a professional presenter or published in your area of interest, but rather a willingness to share.

There is a very good chance we may have some records, documentation, or photos related to your subject. I have found on almost every occasion that I present, I meet at least one person that can help me expand my base of knowledge on my topic of interest. I would be able to help structure your talk if you would like some assistance, or you can run with the entire speaking event!

The main condition to submitting a proposal to share is that you can define how your topic relates explicitly or implicitly to McHenry County. We would like to support four speakers per year, and you don't have to worry about being the first, we would like you when you and your presentation are ready. Please share this with your friends that might also be interested. Please email me with any questions you might have.

Best,

Wayne Duerkes
wayne@mchenrycountyhistory.org

Our Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration (Society founded in 1963) was held November 10th at the CL Main Beach Pavillion.

Board Members Molly Walsh and Nancy Kowalski Co-Chaired the gala event, which included a wonderful silent auction, scrumptious food, the exciting live drawing by Arlen Bird for our 2023 Quilt Raffle, won by Sally Harris of Crystal Lake and Nancy Fike's reflections on our founder, Dorothy McEachern.

Recognition was given to our seventy-two lifetime members, our eight special celebration donors, our sixtieth anniversary sponsors, and the thirty-seven individuals who volunteered over sixty hours EACH! this past year.

Secret Streams: McHenry County Drainage Districts

By CRAIG L. PFANNKUCHE

William C. Barrett's introduction in his fine book, *City of Lake and Prairie: Chicago's Environmental History* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020), includes:

"The physical landscape underlying the built environment might be viewed as a blank slate on which to erect the city of Chicago, but this mixture of land and water is not as uniform as it appears and knowledge of its natural systems is required to build effectively. The region's low elevation alongside Lake Michigan and its high water table resulted in a diverse natural landscape of tallgrass prairie, islands of oak savanna, wetlands and dunes. This subtle but richly varied patchwork of ecosystems has been altered and remade by humans over and over."

Very much the same thing can be said for the natural environment of McHenry County. What we see in the countryside today, beyond

This ditching machine was put to work excavating the Dunham Township drainage system in 1915.

current areas of urbanization, is not often what nature originally created. Land planners and developers have occasionally failed to comprehend that what they see as a network of historic farm fields – which can be modified fairly earsily to support new subdivisions and strip malls – have, years earlier, already have been altered significantly.

Consequently, the work they envision could be far more difficult than they presume.

One very major manmade alteration to the McHenry County landscape began almost 150 years ago. Following the Civil War and, in part, because of the increasing use of mechanical harvesters and hay cutting machines, area farmers sought to increase the amount of plantable acreage on their properties. Standing in the way throughout the county were large swaths of low wetlands which precluded cultivation. The *1885 History of McHenry County* contains a chapter (page 359) which forcefully states what its anonymous author thought was needed to be done.

"Out of the 384,400 acres of land comprising McHenry County, 34,956 acres are wetland and totally unfit for cultivation," he wrote.

Craig Pfannkuche has been President of Memory Trail Research, Inc. since 1993, and the Genealogical Archivist for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Historical Society since 1984. He is on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Genealogical Society. He has presented numerous workshops in history, historical & genealogical research & archaeological techniques at both the local and national level.

"On this land the farmers of this county are paying taxes and yet receive from it no income, while the wet spots stand, a menace to the health of the family and a blotch on the appearance of the farm."

That author's solution to this "blotch" was DRAIN TILES!

"The writer has shown him, adjoining Crystal Lake, on the extensive farm of C.S. Dole, Esq., a large tract of beautiful land, as productive as a garden upon which his informant assured him that he had himself a few years since speared fish. On the farm of Geo. S. Young, Esq., near Harvard, where a pond in which there were fish was drained in 1883, and a fine crop of corn was raised thereon in 1884."

Heavy utilization of drain tiling (most often accomplished with clay tiles developed by William Gates' terra cotta tile factory in Prairie Grove) began early in the 20th century. The first such widespread project was that of the Drainage District #1 in Dunham Township, to the south of Harvard. Proposed in 1902 and approved in 1903, it involved 1,380 acres. Known in those days as "the Islands," because of the numerous wet swales and dry areas which dotted the landscape there, farmers there wanted to farm the wet acreage.

The district proposed to dig two ditches "up to 4 to 6 feet and 10 to 16 feet wide which would drain the district lands. In a front-page article in the Nov. 27, 1902, edition of the *Harvard Herald*, the proposal was lauded. "By this drainage, low, marshy ground in Dunham can be converted into the most productive corn land in Illinois," the article stated.

A statement concerning Dunham wetland in the *Harvard Herald* of Feb. 7, 1908, stated: "The land has been worthless except to hunters and fishermen. The undertaking to reclaim it will cost $5 per acre. This great tract is contiguous to some of the finest farmlands in the area and it is asserted by the promoters that if the drainage scheme is successful that every acre will be worth from $100 to $150 per acre."

After seeing what the Dunham Township district accomplished, a printed notice appeared in the Nov. 24, 1910, edition of the *Woodstock*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

State of Illinois
County of McHenry

Hebron Drainage District No. 1

DRAINAGE BOND

$500

Dated May 1, 1916
Due March 1, 1921

Interest 5½% Per Annum
Payable Semi-annually, on September 1 and March 1

Both Principal and Interest Payable at the
DISTRICT TREASURER'S OFFICE
AT THE BANK OF HEBRON
HEBRON, ILL.

State of Illinois
County of McHenry

No. 30 $500

HEBRON
DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1
DRAINAGE BOND

Hebron Drainage District No. 1, of the County of McHenry and State of Illinois, a body, politic and corporate, acknowledges itself to owe, and, for value received promises to pay to the bearer the principal sum of

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Sentinel. It notified readers that landowners around Union were petitioning to form a "Kishwaukee Special Drainage District." The petitioners stated that lands along the Kishwaukee River were "low, wet, and swampland now of little use and that the Kishwaukee creek [which flows through the district] is a very crooked and winding stream providing little or no drainage in times of high water."

The proposal to "deepen, widen and straighten the stream" received court approval and by November 1910 proponents were soliciting bids to do the work.

In 1911, the Rush Creek Drainage District was established to deepen and widen the flowage of Rush Creek near Harvard, "in order to utilize more land for corn production."

As the war in Europe stalemated and the issue of hunger in the world grew, the federal government undertook to convince farmers that a massive increase in food production was an absolute necessity. In part because of this view, McHenry County farmers decided to

drain additional low-lying land. In 1915 the Coon Creek, Hebron and the South Islands (Dunham) drainage districts were organized to drain a combined 16,230 acres within their districts. A year later the Chemung and the Coral-Grafton drainage districts were formed to drain 26,469 acres. In 1917, the Crystal Lake and the Greenwood drainage district were set up to drain 3,301 acres.

Together, over 46,000 acres in the county were affected.

The Coon Creek Drainage District, itself, sought to drain more than 7,000 acres with "six miles of ditches and 16 miles of tile work."

Carpenter & Henderson Drainage Contractors of Chicago was a firm doing business in McHenry County. (Source: MCHS Research Library)

Commissioners of the South Islands District argued whether it would be better to use eight-inch or 12-inch tiles in their drainage plans.

By the late 1920s, more and more notices of unpaid special assessments on farmlands within the various drainage districts were appearing in area newspapers. Farm profits in Illinois were dropping precipitously in the decade. An economic depression, mostly unnoticed by urban dwellers, had already come to farmers years before 1929.

As grain prices fell, so did payments for special assessments for drainage work. Throughout the years of the "Great Depression," drainage district commissioners struggled to keep their districts going in order to replace tile breakage and to clear impediments to streams under their control. By the end of World War II, all but one or two districts had ceased to function. Still, as late as 1958, the Rush Creek District was announcing that it would fund some ditch clearing and cleaning within its area.

Even though many such drainage districts as mentioned above had become "inactive," those many miles of tiles which had been placed four feet down under wide swaths of the county remained. This cobweb-like network of flowing underground streams was forgotten.

While not part of a drainage district, the McHenry County Conservation District decided to restore the wetlands west of the kames in Glacial Park. But it was not just a simple matter of pulling up and removing these privately placed drain tiles. The course of the Nippersink Creek which flows through the property had been straightened at the time of the tiling, resulting in the destruction of the creek's original meandering course. The tiles in an area contribute large volumes of water to a watercourse which is "unnatural." If the stream to which the tile system drains was straightened, the stream would very often be in flood – especially downstream of the tile outlet.

Thus, when the three levels of tiles were removed at Glacial Park after 1987, the Nippersink had to be re-meandered to prevent more frequent and heavier flooding on properties downstream from the park. Stream meandering slows water movement and allows potential flood waters to spread out over the meanders rather than pour rapidly downstream.

Another reason the conservation district had for removing drain tiles was that a wide variety of native prairie plants would not grow in drained land since they were not adapted to drier soils. Once the tiles were removed, the increased water content of the soil was much more amenable to native prairie plant growth. This also had the benefit of attracting a wide variety of insect and animal life which had once lived in and on the native prairie.

An example of an inadvertent breakage of a drainage district tile happened in May 2008 in the new "Sonatas" subdivision, north of Woodstock. In its May 14 issue, the *Northwest Herald* reported that "mysterious underground water" was leaking into some basements in the northwest area of the subdivision and "creating constantly wet conditions in common areas that are supposed to be dry." A subheading for the article shouted: "No one can figure out water's source."

The answer was that a drain tile in the Greenwood Drainage District, unknown to developers, had been broken during area excavations. In a recent interview, Don Goad, one of the current managers of the Greenwood District, said that if drainage tiles get broken or a drainage district outlet gets plugged, the water in the whole of the drainage system will create so much pressure that it will exit the broken tile and force its way to the first available open area ... such as a basement.

Goad said he's seen water from a broken tile near a plugged outlet shoot 20 feet into the air from the mass of pressure caused by water in the rest of the system. He also remarked that, as the Greenwood Township Road Commissioner, he is glad that the Greenwood Drainage District is still in business. He said that if it were not for the system in place in the present day, some of the roads in his district which had been used since the 1850s would often be flooded over.

So as we drive the highways and byways of the county and admire those supposedly natural fields and streams – now covered with great green crops and traversed by gently flowing waters, often through straight-line ditches – it behooves us to remember that a massive underground system is making it possible. ❧

FLASHBACK from our Institutional Archives

(32 years ago)

MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1992 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the McHenry County Historical Society and museum shall be to preserve, promote and present artifacts relating to the history and lives of the residents of McHenry County.

The mission shall extend beyond the borders of this County to the extent that it involves events or persons that have had an impact on this county.

To accomplish this mission, the Society and its museum shall seek to acquire and conserve any artifact that reflects the past, present, or future spirit of its residents.

Further, the Society shall make available to its museum, and to the public at large, presentations and displays which reflect the scope of the collections and materials we hold in trust for posterity.

It shall be our responsibility to participate in the education of our youth so that they may continue to enjoy a mutual heritage. We consider it to be our duty to provide continuing education programs for adults so that they may broaden their horizons and reflect upon their origins.

This Society shall encourage a county preservation ethic and maintain an atmosphere that continues to attract active members who are sensitive to our built and natural historic environments. The Society has a responsiblity to be a public source of information on preservation and historic issues as they pertain to McHenry County.

The mission of this organization is to make available to the general public and to serious researchers, those appropriate documents and records which would, and in so doing, broaden the understanding and usefulness of our holdings.

Lastly, it is within the mission of the Society to solicit dues, fees, grants, fellowships, donations, endowments, and public revenues which may be used to further activities within the scope of our mission.

(see page two in this issue for our current Mission and Vision statements)

Embracing History and Community

Joys and Benefits of Volunteering at the McHenry County History Museum

BY JANET BARRON

Volunteering is a powerful force that transforms the lives of those being served and leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of those who choose to give their time and skills. One such enriching volunteer experience can be found at the McHenry County Historical Society & Museum, where individuals can immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of local history while positively impacting their community.

Exploring McHenry County's Rich Heritage

A short scenic drive from most areas of the county, the McHenry County History Museum in Union is a testament to the region's vibrant past. Volunteers embark on a journey through time, delving into the stories, artifacts, and cultural nuances that have shaped the area. By contributing their time, volunteers become stewards of the community's collective memory, preserving and sharing it with present and future generations.

Joy in Sharing Stories

One of the most fulfilling aspects of volunteering at the Museum is sharing captivating stories with museum visitors or those requesting information from our Research Library. Volunteers become storytellers, breathing life into historical documents or connecting visitors to the people and events that have shaped the community. Whether it's the tale of a pioneering family, the evolution of local industries, or the community's resilience during challenging times, volunteers play a crucial role in fostering a sense of identity and pride among residents.

Learning and Growth

Volunteering is a two-way street that benefits the community and the individuals who choose to give their time. Volunteers at the McHenry County History Museum have a unique learning experience. After training, volunteers gain insights into local history, learn to catalog and conduct research, hone communication skills, and become adept at handling historical artifacts. The museum serves as a dynamic classroom where volunteers continually expand their knowledge base, fostering a love for lifelong learning.

Community Connection

Volunteering at the museum creates a sense of belonging and community connection. Volunteers often form close bonds with fellow history enthusiasts, sharing a passion for preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of McHenry County. The camaraderie among volunteers creates a supportive environment where individuals with diverse backgrounds come together for a common cause. This shared sense of purpose enhances the volunteer experience and strengthens the fabric of the local community.

Personal Fulfillment

The sense of personal fulfillment derived from volunteering at the museum is immeasurable. As volunteers witness the impact of their efforts on museum visitors, school groups, and members of the community, they experience a deep sense of satisfaction. Knowing that they are contributing to the cultural enrichment of the community and playing a vital role in preserving its history brings a profound sense of purpose and joy.

Skill Development and Resume Building

Volunteering is a valuable opportunity for skill development, especially for high school-age and young adult volunteers. The McHenry County History Museum offers a unique platform for honing skills. From public speaking and exhibit curation to archival research and event planning, volunteers acquire diverse skills that can enhance their personal and professional lives. Moreover, the experience gained through volunteering at a respected institution like the museum can significantly boost one's resume, opening doors to future opportunities.

Volunteering at the McHenry County History Museum is a journey of discovery, community, and personal growth. It is an invitation to step into the past, explore the roots of a community, and actively contribute to its vibrant present. The joys and benefits of volunteering extend far beyond the museum's walls, creating a ripple effect that positively influences individuals and the community. As volunteers embrace the opportunity to become guardians of history, they find fulfillment in knowing that their efforts are integral to preserving the unique identity and heritage of McHenry County. ❧

Janet began working at the Society in June of 2022. Before her tenure with MCHS, she worked in healthcare, marketing, and sales, where she was known for strategic planning, process mapping, and helping organizations grow and reach their goals. Often described as the 'what if' person on the team, she thinks strategically, collaborates with team members, offers creative, workable solutions, and successfully brings ideas to life.

At MCHS, Janet is responsible for coordinating member relations. In addition, she recruits and organizes volunteers, attends community events to promote the Historical Society and Museum, maintains our website and helps implement educational programs. Janet maintains our electronic database of volunteers, members, and partners. She also creates our monthly (emailed) Newsletter and our now biannual *The Society's Page* for members only (first published in 1999). If you're not receiving timely news you're looking for about what's coming up, please contact her.

Volunteers are our Lifeblood!

Volunteering in your community does a heart good. So, if you're looking to spend a few hours volunteering in the company of some wonderful, welcoming people, sharing laughs, making new friends, and doing some good as we share local history, then we'd love to talk to you about where you can help. There's room at the Museum for everyone, at any skill level.

To join us in **engaging volunteer opportunities**, contact Janet Barron directly @ 815/923-1261 or email: **volunteer@mchenrycountyhistory.org**

Curator's Corner

BY KIRA STELL

Visit Kira's blog
Curator's Corner: THE ART & ALCHEMY OF CURATING
mchscollections.blogspot.com

As Exhibits Curator, my responsibilities include the care, management, and preservation of object collections held by the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum. To facilitate long-term planning for the collection, the museum participated in a Collections Assessment Program (CAP) in early 2023. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, CAP is an overarching study of an institution's conditions, policies, and procedures related to collections care. It includes a review of collections storage and exhibition environments that assists museums by providing recommendations and priorities for collections, facilitating the development of a long-range preservation plan, and serving as a fundraising tool for future collections projects.

Our institution was selected as one of 56 organizations invited to participate in the CAP program. The program allocated funding for a collection assessor and a building assessor. Melissa Amundsen from Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis was selected as the collection assessor and Charles Quagliana, Preservation Architect from Mazomanie, WI as the building assessor. Both assessors visited our location over a two-day site visit in early February of last year. The building assessor evaluated primarily the interior of the storage facilities with cursory observations of the exterior. The collections assessment included observations made in all the collection areas: storage, exhibit spaces, and work areas. Visual observations were combined with environmental readings of temperature, relative humidity, visible light, and ultraviolet radiation.

Following the site visit, the CAP assessors produced a report which provided our institution with a prioritized set of recommendations for improved collections care. Preventive conservation practices addressed the following areas within the CAP report: environmental monitoring and control, safe handling, storage and exhibition, integrated pest management, and emergency preparedness and security. As Exhibits Curator, I am prioritizing these recommendations from the CAP report and creating action plans based on short-term goals and long-range planning needs. One of the CAP report recommendations includes rehousing the 3-dimensional small objects from clear plastic bins (shown at left) to acid-free storage boxes (below).

Acid-free boxes provide additional protection from physical damage and light. They also allow for more efficient stacking on the storage shelves, which maximizes the use of that space.

Several grants that would help fund the rehousing project were reviewed including the **Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions**. I confirmed our institution was eligible to apply for this $10,000 grant funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The **grant** helps small and mid-sized institutions such as libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and cultural organizations improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. This grant would assist in the preservation of our collections through the purchase of supplies to re-house three dimensional collections. With funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, 150 plastic storage bins would be upgraded to archival storage boxes. If awarded grant funding in August 2024, archival storage boxes will be purchased for the rehousing project, and a history or museum studies graduate student will provide an appropriate level of assistance. By utilizing the best preservation approach to archival storage, the McHenry County Historical Society and Museum will be able to continue to share its collections with the public in a variety of formats including exhibitions, loans, public programming, research and scholarship opportunities, digital databases, and social media for generations to come.

temperate, Republican, moral, beautiful, well-read "village" of Marengo, ranking it as one of "the more temperate and intelligent communities[4]."

THE FACILITIES

About September 1855, building started on the Marengo Collegiate Institute of the Presbytery of Chicago[5]. On December 13, 1856, the *Marengo Journal* noted "It is not yet finished," meaning that the building had been started at the time of publication. The building in the engraving looks like a capital "H." The article notes that "the back wing seen in the engraving has not yet been built," and notes that the building was shaped like a capital "T." The article goes on to describe the building as being 5 stories, built of Dundee Brick, with a stone basement. From the engraving, it appears that the basement was a garden basement and was being counted as one of the floors. It says it will have apparatus rooms, recitation rooms and a library, meaning those had perhaps not been built yet. The size of the front part of the building (and the planned rear wing) was 37' by 93' and the middle portion under construction was 37' by 43'. In whole, the building as finished in its "T" shaped configuration had a foot print of 5,032 square feet. Assuming all five floors were the same size, and finished, the "T" shaped building would have had approximately 25,000 square feet.

In almost any account of the Institute, the engraving of the five-story brick, "H" shaped building is included. Where the engraving came from is unknown.

On or about March 10, 1862, just over four years after opening, the Institute building burned to the ground. An eye witness account at the time noted that there was insufficient water to fight the fire with even a bucket brigade, and that one man looted the pantry during the fire.

THE PEOPLE

In order for there to be a College in Marengo, there would have had to have been someone who started it. Because the Institute began in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, and continued there, after the Institute burned, it is logical to start with the Presbyterian Church. The *1885 History of McHenry County*, reproduced in 1976, lists "George F. Goodhine," as the founder of the Presbyterian Church in Marengo, having come directly from seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, and "He preached for this people seven years, at the expiration of which time he was elected President of the Collegiate Institute[6]." The same *1885 History* lists among the instructors of the Institute, a "Geo. T. Goodhue[7]." A newspaper clipping from an un-named source in the McHenry County Historical Society's research library dated July 3, 1974 lists the Secretary of the Institute as one "George F. Doodhue." Another clipping in the possession of the Society, dated October 1, 1981, lists the "first regular pastor" of the Presbyterian Church as Rev. G.F. Goodhue, and states that he was "interested in furthering Marengo's educational progress." An original advertisement for the Institute in possession of the Society lists "Geo. F. Goodhue" as "Secretary Board Trustees." Probably then, Reverend George Franklin Goodhue was the founder of the College and the Presbyterian Church in Marengo, and "Doodhue," as well as "Goodhine" are typos. In fact, the "History and genealogy of the Goodhue family in England and America to the year 1890" lists a George Franklin Goodhue who studied at Princeton and "became a home missionary in Northern Illinois; was founder of several Presbyterian churches in that section, where he labored most devotedly and successfully[8]." He seems a likely founder of the Presbyterian Church in Marengo, as well as who started the Presbyterian Academy. When exactly the Academy itself was started is not known at this time, but when the it grew into the "Marengo Collegiate Institute of the Presbytery of Chicago," the original trustees were Anson Sperry, the second attorney in Marengo, President, Wm. Edwards, Treasurer, H.A. Brown, Vice President, R.K. Todd, who would later found Todd Seminary for boys in Woodstock, Agent, Rev, G, F. Goodhue, Secretary, R. G. Thompson, R.W. Henry, M. White and E. Meyers.

While the building housing the institute changed hands several times in its short life, it was last owned by Rev. Isaac Labagh, an Episcopalian who ran a boarding school there[9].

ATTENDANCE

The Marengo newspapers report that the opening ceremony for the Institute took place on September 30, 1857. Despite the Presbyterian Academy boasting at least 80 students while it was

continued on page 9

still housed in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, only about 40 students reported the day after to begin studies.

Five months later, in early February 1858, the Marengo Collegiate Institute closed for want of funds. A proposition published in the *Marengo Journal* notes that there were "1 to 25" students. It was still closed in March[10].

Seven months later, on the first Monday of October, 1859, the Institute reopened, but this time only in liberal arts, not sciences and agriculture as previously advertised.

Reported in the *Elgin Gazette* on Thursday, August 1860, the building was sold "a few days since" at Sheriff's sale to "an Episcopalian clergyman from the east, who proposes to establish a first-class Collegiate Institute." The sale price was $5,775 – less than a third of the original cost to build[11]. *The Marengo Journal* reported that there were "between twenty and thirty" students in attendance[12], and would be "bound to succeed."

The Marengo Collegiate Institute of the Chicago Presbytery was renamed the "Marengo Institute" and opened a third time on September 19, 1860. A large advertisement was taken out in the Marengo Journal[13]. The instructors were named as Isaac P. Labagh, Peter L. Labagh (later a member of the "Wayne Rifles"[14]), Charles Woodward, Cynthia L'Hote, Carrie Benedict and Elizabeth C. Sperry[15]. This time, it was as a school for young ladies only, and the building itself was named Euphemia Hall[16], after a Greek martyr who suffered a gruesome fate. There were "20 or 30" pupils, according to contemporaneous newspaper accounts.

CONCLUSION

Beginning August 16, 1856, Anson Perry, as President of the Board of Trustees of the Marengo Collegiate Institute, advertised weekly in the *Marengo Journal*, asking for those who had promised to financially support the Institute to actually pay what they owed. Money was a problem on this case from the beginning. The Chicago Presbytery had pledged financial support for the Institute, but never delivered. This left the organizers in an embarrassing position. They were charged with raising money to run the school, but instead, had to spend all the money they had raised on building the school, leaving no money to run it. It seems without question the building was at least partly built, having been built at the same time and by the same Marengo firm that built the Woodstock courthouse. Some similarities in the engraving and the old Woodstock courthouse are apparent. The building was supposed to have been beautiful and visible for miles. But no matter how beautiful, it could not compensate for the lack of funding.

As an Institute, it operated for only five months. It struggled with attendance, funding, and retention of staff. Many dignitaries were invited to the opening ceremony: not a single one attended. In its third or perhaps fourth iteration it burned to the ground. Record keeping was such that no one bothered to clean up title to the land, and some fifty years later, there were legal proceedings to remove the now defunct Institute from title to the land. Despite all this, there were graduates from the "Marengo Institute," and attendance at the Institute would be worthy of note in biographies and obituaries for decades to come.

EPILOGUE

Every few years, an evergreen or recurring public interest piece runs about the MCI. The McHenry County Historical Society's file on the Institute is replete with them. They all say basically the same thing . . . that 150 students attended, that it was five stories tall, opened and closed a few times and ultimately burned to the ground. That is in some respects at odds with what the newspapers at the time reported. How could the story have been so wrong? The answer, I believe, is two-fold. First, later newspaper accounts seem to have conflated the claims that the Institute as planned could "accommodate" 150 to 200 students with actual attendance. There is no indication that at any time there were more than 40 students actually attending the institute. Second, prior to the McHenry County Historical Society's move to digitize the newspapers for Marengo, it would have been an impossible task to read them all for mentions of the Marengo Collegiate Institute. Each time the Institute was written about, then, the same source material, more or less, was recycled and perhaps embellished with oral memories. Now that the newspapers are available for searching, it is possible to discover what contemporaneous accounts of the Institute actually were. It will be exciting to see what other mysteries wait to be uncovered.

REFERENCES

[1] `gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/teacher-resources/statistics-education-america-1860-1950`

[2] *Decatur Herald*, May 9, 1963, Page 16

[3] Private Laws of the State of Illinois, Passed at the Nineteenth General Assembly, begun and heard at the City of Springfield, January 1, 1855

[4] *Chicago Tribune*, Tuesday, January 22, 1856, p1

[5] *Marengo Journal* notes in the October 13, 1857 edition, reporting on the September 30, 1857 opening ceremony, that building had taken place for "about two years."

[6] *History of McHenry County, 1885 edition* as reproduced 1976, p740

[7] *History of McHenry County, 1995 edition*, p298

[8] `archive.org/stream/historygenealogy00byugood/historygenealogy00byugood_djvu.txt`
As further confirmation, (for what it's worth), `ancestry.com` has a record of George Franklin Goodhue, B. 1821, D. 1865 at only 44 years of age, who lived in Marengo in 1850; no Goodhine or Doodhue were located.

[9] *Woodstock Sentinel*, V5, Issue 35 Edition 1, dated March 26, 1862, p3

[10] *Belvidere Standard*, March 9, 1858, p2

[11] *Marengo Journal*, August 11, 1860

[12] *Marengo Journal*, September 20, 1860

[13] *Marengo Journal*, November 3, 1860, front page

[14] *Marengo Journal*, May 18, 1861. The Recruitment or volunteer of the instructors of the institute into military service could not have helped the cause of the Institute – neither could the start of the civil war in the spring if 1861. Surely most people's attentions would have been on other causes than a college – no matter how grand.

[15] *Marengo Journal*, November 3, 1860, front page

[16] *Marengo Sentinel*, September 12, 1860

Also, this simple three year summary was published on page 89 of The *Marengo Beacon/Republican-News*, September 12, 1935, (available with subscription):

`newspapers.com/newspage/191467854`

(within "Chronological History of Marengo" on that page)

-1856- Marengo Collegiate Institute is built.
-1857- Marengo Collegiate Institute has formal opening.
-1858- Marengo Collegiate Institute is closed.

An Interview with Nancy Fike

BY BOB FRENZ

(Part One)

This is about half of Bob's interview with Nancy.

Nancy Fike and I have known each other since we were both young teachers in Huntley District #158 in the early 1970's. In the Fall of 2023, we sat down to converse on her long career first as a volunteer, then a board member, officer, and finally as Administrator of the McHenry County Historical Society. Nancy did not previously see the questions I posed to her; therefore, her responses obviously reflect a great deal of prior thought and reflection on her part. My hope is that readers will find our conversation helpful in not only understanding the beginnings of the Society, but also in preparing for its future.

BF - Today is September 18, 2023. I am going to interview former McHenry County Historical Society Administrator, Nancy Fike. O.K. We are starting the recording now and this is Nancy Fike.

First question – I'd like to ask you to just tell us a little about your background.

NF – Well, like a lot of people here my folks were transplants from Chicago and they were married in 1937 and I was born in 1942; my brother in 1945. They had a summer home out here in McHenry and, in the early 1940's, moved out here. I started kindergarten here so I am a McHenry native. I went to school here all the way through and graduated in 1960 from what is today's East Campus, but then was the only high school. I went to Northern [Illinois University] for 4 years to be a secondary education teacher, majoring in history, minoring in P.E. My first job, interestingly enough, was in a little town called Belfry, Montana, a little spot on the map and if you didn't know you were in there you would never find it again. In 1964-65-66, I left McHenry and crossed the Mississippi for the first time in my life. Drove out by myself and they interviewed me really by letter. Not even telephone or anything. And, I kind of took it sight unseen. Now, I had another. I wanted to go out there because I was always interested in frontier history. I drive out there; never had been in the mountains before, scared myself half to death. Little spots on the road that were only supposed to be spots on the road. It was actually terrifying getting into – like the Pryor Mountains. And, well, I got there. Where do you find housing in a little cow town? It wasn't there. I wound up living in Bridger, named after the explorer Jim Bridger, which was maybe 10 miles away. It had like a post office and a grocery store. Things like that. And, I wound up staying in a motel and the only ones staying in the motel were oil workers and the guys that worked on the road and stuff like that. I had no television with me and a radio. That was about it. And, my first year teaching was the high school social studies and civics and when I got there they told me I was going to have to teach girl's P.E. and health. Now, I barely know the difference between an artery and a vein. And, here I am in a high school trying to teach high school. It was a marvelous experience; I met people who were one generation away from living in sod huts and they were mostly what they call dry land farmers and ranchers. I saw a cattle drive right through the middle of town one time.

Bob Frenz retired from teaching history at Huntley High School and is a long-time volunteer at MCHS. He is a past-President of the Society and an author – or co-author – of two books and numerous articles for the Tracer and other journals.

One of these towns had a large hill behind it and we would go up it every year before football season started and paint the rocks with a great big "B" on it. The logo was a big huge bat and we were the Belfry Bats. I still have a sweatshirt in bright yellow with a big blue bat stretched out on my chest. So, I was there for two years, loved every minute of it, went horseback riding with my students. Went to every game because I had to be the scorer of the games. I learned how to do that. I could tell you a million stories about the Indians we played against. Anyway, after two years I went to get my Master's Degree and it was going to be in frontier history at the University of Colorado and I majored there in frontier history with a minor in Chinese history.

BF – Wow!

NF – Mainly because of a Professor there who knew Chiang Kai-shek [leader of China through World War 2] and Mao Tse-tung [leader of the Communist revolution that overthrew Chaing in 1949]. And, had been over there when all the revolutionary stuff was going on. O.K. So, after that my next teaching job was in Rhode Island. By that time Steve and I were engaged. And he was in the Seabees [the U.S. Navy construction force] and was stationed in Rhode Island. He was stationed in Quanochontaug in Rhode Island. And, so I got a teaching job out there in a town called Westerly, Rhode Island. It was out by the ocean and I stayed in a resort area called Misquamicut. And, I taught 8th grade social studies. And, it was a very heavily Italian area. Every Italian kid that got off the boat ended up in my class. They spoke Italian: they spoke no English; it was always interesting. O.K. Steve and I then married out in Rhode Island. And, then he went back for another tour. He did two tours; he was in the Seabees. And he went overseas again. I was there [Rhode Island] for a year. When he came back he then got on the GI Bill. He was able to go to the Brooks Institute of Photography in Montecito, Ca. So, we then went out to California for 3 years where I ended up working in the Santa Barbara Public Library. Could tell you a million stories about that. Then I taught one year in Montecito at a private day school called Crane Country Day School where I had students like Cecil B. DeMille the III and one of the Bottom's kids [a reference to the actor Timothy Bottoms] and there were several that were in the acting profession. But there I ended up teaching 5th grade Language Arts. Anyways, after a year there and I had also worked at the Santa Barbara Public Library. It was interesting out there those three years; we had oil spills, we had earthquakes; we had bombings. We had a bombing at the Bank of Isla Vista. Had a bombing at the armory. Because this was all the late 60's and the opposition to the Vietnam War and we could tell you a lot of stories of personal experiences with that too. [Steve] having served over there and coming back it was nothing but anti-Vietnam.

BF – Sure

NF - Anyways, which it turned out to be right, once he graduated from Brooks Institute we started looking for a place where we

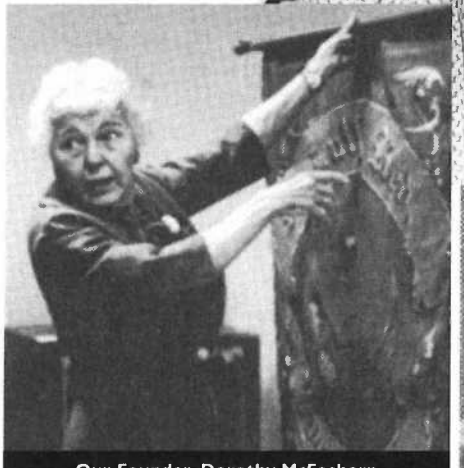
knew we could find employment and we knew the area so we came back to McHenry. We came back here in 1971 and then I got a teaching job at Huntley [teaching] 6th grade Language Arts. Then it must have been 1972 or 1973 somewhere around there; and I taught with you, Bob Frenz, only you were in the high school and up to your neck in the politics of the Teacher's Association.

BF- Yes, I was.

NF – And, it was when I was at Huntley that I got involved with the [McHenry County] Historical Society.

BF – Maybe you could tell us a little bit more about how you became interested in the historical society. You said you became interested in it when you were at Huntley.

NF – Well, I became interested in it … I was at the County Fair. The Gannon Log Cabin had just been located over there [from its original site in Grafton Twp.] and I went in and probably someone like Van [Vanessa] Sells – no, it wasn't Van – I don't remember who was there docenting in the cabin but they had a sign-up sheet for people who might be interested in getting involved with the county historical society. Now, my attitude at the time was that historical societies were run by little old ladies with gray hair and lots of diamonds and pearls. And, uh, at the age of 29 or 30 I didn't think I quite qualified for that. But I signed my name and the next thing I knew I got a call from the McHenry representative on the board by the name of Clyde Blackwell. And, Clyde Blackwell was well known in McHenry. He was the "puppet man" and did programs for kids at the McDonald's which the only one in town was located west on Rt. 120. He lived in Lakeland Park there so it was very close for him. He called and said, "you know, I'm getting up there in years and would you consider taking my place on the [Historical Society] Board? I went, "what?" [Laughter] I don't know anything about this. I don't know squat. And, he was such a nice gentleman. And, they [the Board] were probably thrilled because I was young and able-bodied. And, at that time that was really important. That had to be around 1973. We came back, as I said, in '71 so by '73 I was volunteering and I was on the Board.



Our Founder, Dorothy McEachern

BF – So, then what were your first jobs at the Historical Society? You said you were volunteering. Doing what?

NF - You know, I have to scratch my head on that one. Because I was on the Board pretty quickly and it [the museum] wasn't open to the public. It didn't open until 1976 – that was the grand opening. In the meantime the building had to pass fire codes and structural codes. Stuff like that in order to open up this old building for use again. For public use.

BF – In Union?

NF – Yes, I'm talking about the museum in Union.

BF - So, were you on the Board when that building was acquired?

NF – No, it was acquired in … let's see the Society was formed in 1963 and around 1968 the school officially closed. So, it had to be in the years right after that, '71 or '72. There's an interesting story because Dorothy McEachren, who actually founded the organization … she put up the $20,000 that was required to bid on it. It was sold at auction. Her main opposition bidder was Herb Franks, in Marengo. And, I think he was probably going to develop it. I don't know for sure. But she had Everett Thomas, who was on our Board – Everett Thomas was the one who stood in and bid. It got up to $20,000 and it sold to the Historical Society for $20,000. Herb always said he was glad the Historical Society got it and he was always a main supporter of the organization. Probably still would be [Mr. Franks passed away in 2023].

BF – Now, when you speak of being on the Board – the Board met in Woodstock at that time didn't it?

NF – No

BF – Where were you meeting?

NF – We were meeting in Union. The museum was being prepared. Dorothy and mainly Ramona Martin of McHenry. Dorothy was excellent at roping people in to help. She was very good at it. So, it was all volunteers at the time and we met there. We met in what was called the music room, which is the "stacks" now. And, at the same time the office portion of the museum was developed as an apartment. Plan was to have a couple, and then a single man, to live in the apartment and do the caretaking for free rent. And, the office ended up as the accession room. We met, our monthly meetings were there and we met on Sunday afternoons. The only time we didn't go was in December because it was Christmas. Noon meetings. And, you asked me what kind of things I did. Everything required, I guess. But, when I was on the Board I did a lot of publicity. I became an officer. I was Recording Secretary for a while. And, I was 1st Vice President. Dorothy remained President for a while and, finally, in the late 70's she said, "I've had it." I remember Shuji Kimura was President. I can't remember [all the others]. People tended to get in the office and stay in the office.

BF – Sure, same problem today. We have to bring in new people.

NF – Yeah

BF – But when the historical society was first formed, you said in 1963, weren't a lot of the artifacts kept in Woodstock.

NF – Oh, yes. And, they started out in the Opera House. That's where they held the first meeting. The call … well, let me back up. Dorothy was a member of a Woodstock Women's Professional Organization, that's not the right term for it, but it was professional. I remember her telling me … and she was a relative newcomer to the county. Her and her husband, Malcolm, moved out in the 30's and settled along Haligus Road. She became interested in the area. People would ask her questions, like does anyone know about the dairying industry in McHenry County? She couldn't find any answers to it and she thought to herself [that] there needs to be some sort of organization to answer questions like that. She got this Woodstock women's organization, which I think still exists, to call a meeting. It was held at the Opera House. They sent out 300 invitations. I forget how many

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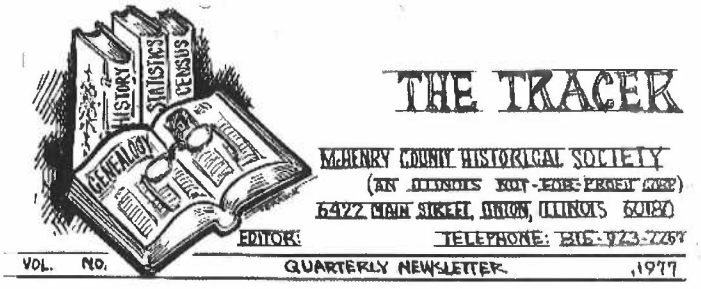
Tracer History Part 3
(Volumes III & IV, Issues #9-13)



From your Tracer Editor's Desk

BY DON ROSE

First, thanks to all the many kind folks who sent kudos my way regarding my *Tracer* efforts.

For those on the edge of reaching out, please don't wait. I'm enjoying unfolding the history of our own Society on these pages. If you've not read my whole MCHS origin story, please refer back to the last issue: *Tracer* #177. Now, let's start part three with a quick review:

Parts one and two here, in #176 & 177, covered Tracer issues #1-8, as follows:

Volume I
President: Dorothy McEachern
Editor: Alvin Maidek:
No. 1 mailed May 6, 1974 (Issue #1)
No. 2 mailed October 15, 1974 (#2)
No. 3 mailed March 19, 1975 (#3)
No. 4 mailed May 20, 1975 (#4)

Volume II
No. 1 mailed October 20, 1975 (#5)
Editor: Ruth L Cripe:
No. 2 mailed March 1, 1976 (#6)
No. 3 mailed June 3, 1976 (#7)

Three new editors took over with:
VII, No. 4 (corrected to VIII, #1)
mailed October 12, 1976 (#8)
(Gwendolyn Danner, Lucille Maguire and Thresile Mulvenna)

This time, you'll read Tracer excerpts from issues #9-13, telling stories and providing Society news from 40+ years ago. Here's the breakdown, with highlights noted:

Volume III
(Same Editors, Dorothy still President)
No. 2 mailed February 2, 1977 (#9)
(early telephone offices, Harley Wayne, Nancy Fike on the old McHenry bridge)
No. 3 mailed May 24, 1977 (#10)
(notable county artists;, the name Ostend)
No. 4 *(NO ISSUE PUBLISHED)*

Volume IV
No. 1 mailed August 26, 1977 (#11)
(board lineup, revenue share pleas, directors' travel stories, Winifred Bridges)
No. 2 mailed December 2, 1977 (#12)
(nice things, guests at board meetings, Dorothy's stepping down announcement, Big Foot Fish headstone, focus on Algonquin)
No. 3 mailed March 18, 1978 (#13)
(Ostend schoolhouse, Girl Scouts, Ring Taw marbles, Jessie Bowdish)

Volume III
No. 2 mailed February 2, 1977 (#9)

Replies to (early Telephone Offices request) from prior *Tracer*: Earl H. Crandall of Roselle, concerning the first Union telephone office, said: "I found the Newsletter very interesting. The first telephone office was in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Kremer - they had a general store, the house was connected to the store, and there were several members of the family and not too many calls. Later it was moved to the Sanford Hotel across the main street. The store was located on the west side of Main Street near the Northwestern depot. Later it was a hardware store. (This is about the Union telephone office.) The article about Mr. Crabb -- He is a very good friend of mine. He interviewed Mrs. Crandall and me a dozen or more times around the time of our 70th wedding anniversary. The *Courier News* of Nov. 14 had a McHenry County Historical Section which showed many of the pictures and had a long article about a Mr. Harold Wayne who built a large home in Union in the 1850s. As a boy I lived within two blocks of this home--in fact I was there until I was 24 years old. I knew it as the Tom Clute home early and later a family named Goodrich had it. It was always a beautiful place and I was glad to know the present owners are keeping it up. My grandparents Henry Crandall came to Seneca Township about 1850. He built the stone part of the school in Union, which is part of the Society's Museum, in 1870. I attended the same school of 3 rooms and 3 teachers from 1890 to 1900."

Another response about the Union office came from Eugene Shaw, of Union. Mr. Shaw recalls that the first office was in the home of a Mrs. Richardson, who was the operator, at the northeast corner of Elm and Jefferson, about 1910. He said they had a wall telephone which you cranked to get the operator.

Mrs. George Danner of Harvard collected the following facts from the *Harvard Herald's* back issues concerning telephone service in that town: May 5, 1895 was the date of the initial meeting of the organization which bore the name of the Harvard Telephone Company. J.C. Blake is credited with inspiring the movement which led to its installation. The first switchboard was located in Wagar's paint and wallpaper store. Mr. Wagar, who was possessed of a mechanical mind, proved valuable in looking after service installations and keeping lines functioning at normal expense. (This original location was at 43 North Ayer, present location of Motor Service Company.) The first officials were F.F. Axtell, H.D. Crumb, G.R. Wagar, J.C. Blake, and James Logue. Mr. Crumb was the first president, F.F. Axtell, first treasurer. The switchboard was first operated by boys, Ed Mayon being an early operator. They were soon replaced by young women, some of the very early ones being Lulu Wagar, Belle Purinton, Della Shepard, Nelle Allendorf, Mary Moran and Bessie Burke. A.A. Allendorf was manager from 1901 to 1923; succeeded by Charles Nieman, who would serve until 1943. When Harvard celebrated its centennial in 1956, many Harvard businesses were still using the numbers first assigned them. 7 being the Harvard State Bank, 11 the First State Bank and 13 Richardson's Pharmacy.

Mrs. Frank Horn (Roberta) of Harvard, asked for a copy of the very first *Tracer* to complete her otherwise perfect file. This was sent to her and she is most grateful.

Perhaps this would be a good place to list our present most pressing - or at least, desired - needs.

MUSEUM'S CURRENT HELP NEEDED

1. The Society has not received details of the different town's first telephone exchanges.
2. An old wall telephone is much desired - the kind with a crank on the right side which was turned to call the operator.
3. This is a long time want - but wouldn't it look nice in the Music Room? A player piano, we mean. And, of course, rolls. If you want to get rid of rolls, they will be accepted in the hope of getting the piano later!
4. More 1885 histories.
5. Business cards, current and contemporary as well as old.
6. Present day clothing - men's and boys', women's and girls', baby's shoes and clothing.
7. A moustache curler.
8. We have been given sheet music "dedicated to C. Clare Moore - my nephew, Woodstock, Illinois". It was composed by Mrs. Retta Darrin who published it in Chicago in 1910. We have been unable to find out who Clare Moore was. Someone thought he worked in a bank. Can anyone give us any information?
9. The Society also needs any information that could be forthcoming about stagecoach stops in the county, particularly the Kennedy Way Station between Harvard and Woodstock; and the Chemung stage coach stops - there were two.

NOW–ABOUT THE SOCIETY AND ITS MEMBERS

In the Fall, Richard Crabb of the *Elgin Courier-News* spent much time in the northern end of McHenry County, where, with the help of President Dorothy McEachren and members of the board, he gathered history and pictures of this part of the county. A separate section of the *Courier-News* carried some of this information on Sunday, November 14. The first page was devoted to Harley Wayne, emigrant from New York, schoolteacher in Marengo, storekeeper in Franklinville, postmaster in Belden, finally settling in Union where he owned the general store, ran a farm, bought and sold land, and loaned money. He was defeated when he ran for the General Assembly but was offered the office of Clerk of the Legislature and went to Springfield. With the coming of the Civil War, at age 39, he enlisted in the Union Army and was killed at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. There are pictures of his beautiful home (now well kept by owners, the Leo Parentis of Union) and copies of some of his letters (some of which are in the archives of the McHenry County Historical Museum).

Also in this section of the paper, are pictures of the gravestone in the Big Foot Cemetery of Evans children, five of whom died in less than a year; the Smith farm, established in 1844, now occupied by great grand-children, the Ralph Lacys, the Hutchinson House, built in 1838-9, St. Paul's Lutheran church dedicated as a Congregational church in 1867, the homes connected with President Ford; the American Legion Hall, home of Harvard's first permanent movie and a former bicycle factory, and the Ladd and Beardsley homes, both more than a century old and the latter always occupied by the same family. All of these are in Harvard.

Although the final page of the newspaper section is filled with pictures of the society's members showing exhibits at the Museum, many will find the portrait of Fred Hatch of Spring Grove more interesting. This gentleman built and used the first-in-the-world

upright silo. The foundations still stand on the farm. Other pictures are of the grave of Major James Watson who served under Generals George Washington and Lafayette in the Revolution, in the Linn-Hebron cemetery, the Cotting house in Richmond, the Solon Mills post office for a century, the Riverside Hotel, the Kenneth Peterson home, the Owen Homestead, all in McHenry, the Old Mill restaurant at the site of the Old Mill which inspired Bennett's "Down by the Old Mill Stream" at Wonder Lake, the Court House and the Opera House at Woodstock, the Presbyterian church at Ridgefield, Colby Motors which claims to be the oldest car dealership in America, the Walkup house and the Wallace and Stickney houses, all in Crystal Lake, the Cupola House in Marengo, the Graf home in Cary and Battendorf Castle in Fox River Grove. Copies of the paper may be seen at the museum.

OUR TRAVELERS

The Misses Clark have gone to Arizona in the hope that warmer weather will improve Leta's health. A persistent cold refused to leave her. President Dorothy McEachren left for Florida on January 6th, intending to remain about four weeks. Her trip was also made at the doctor's suggestion.

OUR VISITORS

The suggestion has been made by Board Member Pat Williams that certain days be set aside as area days – Huntley Day, Harvard Day and so on. Some work will need be done ahead of time so that guides can tell people where special items from their localities may be seen, Along this line, Alden has already had an Alden Day. Most localities seem to think they prefer to wait until spring. Among the people who took advantage of the Museum being open in the Fall were several carloads from the Harvard Nursing Home, a group of Campfire girls another day and Conservation Groups.

THE OLD MCHENRY BRIDGE

by Nancy Fike

Though 1976 marked our nations' Bicentennial, local historical landmarks fared poorly. In McHenry alone, two landmarks out of seven listed in a preliminary landmarks survey of McHenry County conducted by the Illinois Department of Conservation in 1974 were destroyed. The first, the Hanley House located on Crystal Lake Blacktop, was lost to vandals, while the second, the Old McHenry Bridge, was brought down just as deliberately by city, county, and township officials. For McHenry area residents and those who remember the old bridge, its removal was a major public issue throughout 1976. Early last March, the McHenry County Historical Society Board of Directors passed a unanimous resolution urging the city council of McHenry to preserve the historic 1880 iron truss bridge. Petitions signed by local residents totaling over 1700 signatures in support of the bridge were also presented to the McHenry City Council. Hundreds of school children also sent in petitions to save the bridge. Yet despite this - and the urgings of the *McHenry Plaindealer* editor, the McHenry County Defenders, the McHenry County Bicentennial Commission, and the Daughters of the American Revolution to preserve the bridge, officials moved ahead swiftly to have it taken down. Even the fact that under Historical Society sponsorship the old bridge had been unanimously recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, the highest honor a landmark may receive, proved futile in this case. Ironically, had officials waited a few short months until January before removing the bridge, an Illinois law taking effect in January probably would have prevented the action. It was difficult to witness such total disregard of our heritage and history, but it will prove even harder if citizens and organizations in other communities face a similar situation but don't profit from what happened to the Old McHenry Bridge and prevent recurrences like that. It's time we find out exactly how our local officials feel about historic preservation and what references, if any, our communities have to the preservation of our past. Perhaps then we in the Midwest will learn what people on the East Coast recognized long ago - heritage is something to be proud of. Our local history can and should find a place in our future.

HOW DID OSTEND GET ITS NAME?

Lying a few miles west of McHenry, there is a community known as Ostend. Starting roughly at Valley View School, it extends along Route 120 to a line somewhere between the Gordon Clark and Clayton Anderson Farms. Today, the only reminder of this early community's existence is the name "Ostend Acres" on the barn on the farm located at the Ridge Road intersection and the small cemetery which bears its name. Yet, this was once a thriving community. Ostend was a stop on a stagecoach route which ran from Waukegan to Union. For a time, it had its own post office. According to the the national Archives at Washington, D.C., Ostend was established as a post office in 1846 and discontinued in 1878 during which period there were seven postmasters: Lyman Burr-1846, Horatio Willis-1849, William Hoege-1852, George Abbott-1858, Andrew Thomas-1867, Wilbur Bassett-1872, and Harvey Tanner-1873. The Ostend School, a one-room brick building just west of the Wonder Lake-Ridge Road intersection, was the hub of the community with social gatherings, Sunday School classes, basket socials, etc. being held there. At the west end of the district there was the Abbott-Thompson dairy known as the Ostend Creamery. A column of news items from Ostend written by Mrs. Delia Hobart appeared regularly in the *McHenry Plaindealer* for many years. The name "Ostend" seemed to drop out of existence with the consolidation of rural schools and the closing of the Ostend School. How did Ostend get its name? No one seems to know. Someone has suggested that it is a shortened form of "East-end" - if so, east end of what? Can any of our members solve this puzzle?

OUR MUSEUM, AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

On October 20, the Environmental Education Coordinators from the various school districts in McHenry County met at the Museum. This was the first visit for most of these teachers who are excused from their classrooms on a regular basis to meet with Kenneth Fiske of the McHenry County Conservation Dist., Dave Elder who is the Environmental Education Consultant, and others to exchange ideas and to learn about new legislation and nature-related projects to carry back to their respective schools. Many expressed surprise that our museum had so much to offer educationally. The coordinators were invited to have their schools make use of the Museum as a resource for educational field trips. This invitation was repeated in the next issue of the Eco-Echo, the conservation newsletter which goes out to the schools. As a result, schools are making arrangements for tours. Twenty-six sixth grade students from Hawthorne School visited on Dec. 8th. On Jan. 12th, a group of eighth grade pupils from Hawthorne came in the morning, followed on the same day by fifty fourth grade children from Canterbury School at Crystal Lake. Other schools are expressing interest and planning future trips. Mr. Dave Elder attended the November meeting of the Board of the McHenry County Historical Society and asked the members to cooperate with him in the preparation of study materials on different grade levels so that class groups would have some information about the Museum prior to their visit and, perhaps, study guides to complete during or following their visit. Board members who volunteered to work with Mr. Elder are: Nancy Fike, Sandy Walkup, Gwen Danner, June Whipple, Dorothy Northrop and Alice Bailey.

The *Tracer* committee apologizes for our incorrect numbering of the Fall *Tracer*. It should have read Volume III, No. I. Our thanks to Ruth Cripe for calling it out for those who may not have noticed.

ODDS'N'ENDS

The first public advertising of ice cream anywhere in the world was paid for by Phillip Lenzi, a confectioner. In the May 12th, 1777 *New York Gazette*, he announced his ice cream could be had "almost every day". George Conn, farmer in Hebron Township in McHenry County, was the first man in that township to have a milk can made, the work being done in Richmond.

Volume III
No. 3 mailed May 24, 1977 (#10)

OTHER SOCIETY NEWS

Shortly after the Winter *Tracer* came out, the Museum was told by Betty Oberg that she had had a meeting with George May, who is an active member of the state Beekeepers' Association. Mr. May is interested in setting up a display in the Museum to honor the late Dr. Charles Miller, formerly of Marengo. Dr. Miller was one of the early authors and scientists in the study of beekeeping. We hope to see this accomplished this spring.

OTHER ACQUISITIONS

We now have a chimney for our embossed brass kerosene lamp, circa 1890. The donor was Vail & Jacks Antiques of Woodstock. It was most gratefully received. Older people to whom these were ordinary items of daily living cannot imagine the impression they make on the young people of today.

Through the courtesy of Mayor William LeFew, the City of Harvard presented their new Bicentennial book, Harvard Area 1829-1976, to the Museum. It is a history of the Harvard area, Chemung, Dunham, Hartland and Alden Townships and has already been in use by McHenry County college students.

An iron cultivator has been given to the Museum by George Schmitt and Mrs. Eleanor Corson donated a flatbed wheelbarrow. The collection of farm machinery is appropriate to our county's early history.

AND WE GAVE

Our McHenry County Historical Society and our Historical Museum are concerned with our county's history. Therefore, when several books of the court dockets of Winnebago--ledgers, really--came into the Museum's possession, we handed them on to the Rockford Museum Center in Rockford with the understanding that they will do the same for us when something comes into their collection that belongs more in McHenry County.

FORMER MCHENRY COUNTY ARTISTS

The McHenry County Historical Society is conducting a quest for names and information concerning persons from this county who have gained recognition in their chosen field. Our Music Room contains framed copies of sheet music composed in McHenry County. The question as to whether our area had ever produced any notable artists came up at a board meeting recently. A s a result of a little detective work, it was discovered that McHenry was the birthplace of two women who are accomplished artists. The first of these artists was Clara Belle Owen who was born in 1854 and lived in McHenry for many years. She studied art in Paris and became an excellent painter. The second artist, Pauline Palmer (usually called Polly), was born in 1867, the daughter of Nicholas and Francisca Spangemacher Lenards. She was the wife of Albert E. Palmer. Polly studied in Paris and had paintings on exhibit there. In Chicago, she became famous as a portrait painter, especially of children. Some of her work is part of the permanent collection at the Art Institute. Mrs. Palmer was mentioned as a famous woman in Illinois in *The Intelligencer*, a monthly magazine published at Kankakee during our Sesquicentennial Year. She received a silver medal for a painting exhibited in

Paris and a bronze medal at the St. Louis Exposition. I 1907, she won the Young Fortnightly Prize at the Art Institute and the Marshall Field Award. Polly Palmer died in 1938. Do you know of any famous artist who once lived in your area? If so, please send us all the information that you can.

"OSTEND" THE NAME

The *Tracer's* winter edition carried an article titled "How Did Ostend Get Its Name?" Mr. Loren Thompson, a native of the community, has contributed to our research. Although Mr. Thompson has not fully answered our question, we see his information is informative, interesting, and it is greatly appreciated.

The application of the name, "Ostend," to an old settler community located almost equally along either side of the south half of the border between Greenwood and McHenry Townships, is fact, but where the terminology arrived from or by whom suggested is both speculative and legendary. The first recorded use in the community of the label was in 1846 when a post office was established in South Greenwood Township with Postmaster Lyman E. Burr, a Mexican War Veteran. Mr. Burr, who died July 26, 1849, was buried in Fairview Cemetery, a location in South Greenwood Township near which he had long been associated as a pioneer settler and property owner. In 1846, upon the return of Mr. Burr from service in the Mexican conflict, the former soldier enjoyed a hero's welcome and with approving neighbors received a Washington appointment as Postmaster of Greenwood Township's first post office. Also, the post office was first of several community services to be called "Ostend."

Little is known of that exact early location; however, following the pattern established by other frontier post offices, it could well be expected to have been stationed in the residence of the Postmaster. It is quite conclusive, therefore, that in 1846 Ostend opened its initial post office in the home of Mr. Lyman Burr. Since Mr. Burr was the owner of several parcels of property in both Sections 25 and 26 during the years he presided as Postmaster, it remains uncertain which one of them offered Ostend post office its earliest location. After the demise of Mr. Burr in 1849, the Postmaster who followed was Mr. Horatio Willis, a resident of Section 25, Greenwood Township, whose post office home location was on Sherman Hill-Woodstock Road, now called West Route 120, about one mile west of the Greenwood-McHenry Township line. In 1852, Ostend's post office moved into McHenry Township to a site on the same West Route 120 thoroughfare to section 30 and directly opposite the later placement of Ostend's brick schoolhouse. This post office location, which housed the newly appointed William D. Hoege as Postmaster, became the longest in duration in Ostend history for it is believed to have served the community fifteen years or more. December 1852, at the time the post office was moved to McHenry Township to start a long tenure, marked the beginning of the use of the Ostend label in that Township. At that precise time, however, there were long functioning endeavors in a neighboring township's section, all of varied names. Only one of which, the cemetery, later assumed the title of Ostend and that did not occur until twenty years after Postmaster Hoege brought the name to McHenry Township in 1852.

A BIT ABOUT MR. LOREN THOMPSON

If there were a "Who's Who" in Ostend, Mr. Thompson would surely be high on the list. Born in the community, he has many memories of the past. He served on the school board of the Ostend School (District #37) for many years. He is presently writing a book about the lives of the persons buried in the little Ostend Cemetery. This cemetery is especially dear to Mr. Thompson for his great-grandmother was the first to be buried there. When Apollos Thompson was bringing his wife Lucinda to their new farm in Illinois, she became ill and died on December 25, 1842 shortly before reaching McHenry County. The grieving husband buried his wife in a plot on his new farm which became known as the "Thompson Burying Ground" and became a community cemetery. Through the years, the little cemetery became the object of neglect, overgrown with weeds and with crumbling headstones. Loren Thompson spearheaded a movement to interest descendants of persons buried there and others who might care to join in a fundraising drive. This project was successful, and now a trust fund assures perpetual care. The Ostend Cemetery is now immaculately trimmed and neat in appearance. Everett Thomas of Woodstock, one of the cemetery's directors, has been doing the excellent job of maintenance. His great-grandparents, M/M Andrew Thomas are among those buried there. Incidentally, both Mr. Thompson and Mr. Thomas are members of the Historical Society.

Volume IV
No. 1 mailed August 26, 1977 (#11)

ANNUAL MEETING

We thought our annual meeting deserved to be the lead story of this issue. Of course, many of you were there for election of officers, transaction of other business, interesting program and pleasant social hour that followed. Sanford Walkup of Crystal Lake was chairman of the nominating committee (Nancy Fike of McHenry and Shuji Kimura of Crystal Lake). Their list of directors was accepted and for the coming year the board will be made up of Alice Bailey of Hebron, Dorothy McEachren, Leta Clark, Alice Clark, Hamilton O. Hale, Jack W. Satorius and Audrey Walgenbach of Woodstock, Nancy Fike of McHenry, Dorothy Northrop and Don L. Hildebrand of Union, Ruth Cripe, Robert W. Hansen and Betty Oberg of Marengo, Ann Rademaker and Ramon Martin of Cary, Gwendolyn Danner, Thresile Mulvenna, Myrtle Pagles and Avis Pankonin of Harvard, Shuji Kimura of Crystal Lake, Phyllis Koeppel of Algonquin; Henry Marlowe and W. Patrick Williams of Huntley, Wanda Todd of Richmond, and Chester I. Nelson of Elgin. This board later elected Mrs. McEachren, president, Mrs. Fike, vice president, Mrs. Northrop, second vice president, Mrs. Cripe, treasurer, Mrs. Rademaker, recording secretary and Miss Leta Clark, membership secretary.

After the business meeting, demonstration of spinning & carding by Dorothy Muench had been arranged by Director Betty Oberg. There were many questions and comments, showing how much the program was enjoyed. The afternoon ended with a social period at which coffee, punch and cookies were served by a committee chaired by Director Thresile Mulvenna.

VISITORS

For a museum that has had visiting days regularly scheduled for only a year, our guest book shows that we are attracting many guests, not only from out of county but also out of state and even out of country. A recent list shows visitors from 29 Palms, California; St. Petersburg, Florida; Pendleton, Indiana; Benton Harbor, Michigan; Ogden, Utah; Seattle, Washington; as well as Sidcup, England; and Salzgitter, West Germany. If you haven't been here lately, maybe you should drop in. More artifacts come in all the time. You might find something that would interest you as much as it did these folks from far away. A most interesting acquisition was a will drawn up in 1813, leaving the lady's belongings to her two daughters. She listed quilts, lukeenglases, pattecoates, and gonds, with details so there could be no mistake over which daughter was to receive which article. While the old time spelling brings smiles to our lips, the care and thought expended on the will bring tears to the eyes.

GIFTS AND RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PLEAS

To explain the money amounts, the gifts from the townships, of which there have been a number, it is necessary to go back a little, and explain the hard work, for the Society, that our treasurer, Ruth Cripe, has been doing. In the spring she was appointed to investigate the information that museums were valid recipients of revenue sharing funds. When she called the Federal Revenue Sharing Office in Washington, D. C. she was told that the Society could ask all seventeen townships and the twenty-four cities and villages of the county to be included in the budget to receive funds from this Federal Revenue Sharing Fund, or any other funds that are available. She and Dorothy McEachren, our president, then sent out letters to the treasurers of the governmental units in our county. Some of them had been asked previously for help and had included the museum in their budgets. Since the letters, several have made donations. When one reads in the papers the astonishing amount of money that does come into the county from the Federal Revenue Sharing - some of which the local units of government have been unable to use and have returned - a still larger share can be hoped for another year. We do want the townships to know that every penny is appreciated and will be put to good use. Also, in reply to a letter from Dorothy McEachren, the IBM Corporation donated $500.00. We think a very special thank you should go to one member of the board of directors. Ramona Martin, probably appalled at the estimate of the cost of repairing the Civil War flag, undertook to do it herself, and at the July board meeting had it ready to be placed on exhibition. When one thinks of the hours of work, that thank you should be enthusiastic. Dorothy lent a helping hand when needed.

OUR TRAVELERS

Two directors have written about their vacations. The *Tracer* staff would like to thank them and to ask anyone else who has had an interesting trip to send a contribution for the next issue.

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS (Alice & Leta Clark)

Having recently returned from a trip to Colorado, the purpose of this article is to pinpoint two spots of historical interest which our members might plan to visit on future vacations in Colorado. For a glimpse of what life was like in 1870, a visit to the Healey House in Leadville, Col. is a must. While the furnishings of the house are interesting, it is the novel approach which makes it unique. Guests are advised before entering that the hostesses are pretending to actually be living back in 1870. The father of the household is off hunting, and the mother and daughters are downtown shopping. This leaves three of the five schoolteachers who board there to greet visitors. They are dressed in neat floor length dark skirts with prim white blouses. The teachers have bedrooms on the second floor with a small drawing room where they may discreetly entertain their gentlemen friends. All questions are answered with facts which would have been true back in 1870. When one of our group inadvertently expressed surprise that the large braided rug wasn't covered with plastic, the young lady feigned puzzlement, and said she wasn't familiar with anything like that. So, it was a fun experience, and best of all, it was free. The Healey House is owned by the government. The second spot to visit is the museum located in the county courthouse at Del Norte in southern Colorado. There are only two rooms, but the many attractively arranged artifacts range from an old-fashioned mousetrap to the skeleton of a 14-year-old Indian girl found in a local cave. There's a Hohner harmonica with five small trumpets which is supposed to sound like a pipe organ. (Do any of our members own such an instrument?) Each room is presided over by a hostess paid by the comity.

THE MARLOWES

Director Henry Marlowe spent a month touring England and Scotland. He and his wife made a special trip to visit the town of Marlow in the Thomas valley. They found the historical town very picturesque and the people very friendly and interesting. The Marlowe

family has traced their history back to three cousins who came to America in 1656. A week was spent touring Scotland and the Lake Country. Mr. Marlowe is always interested in agriculture as he taught in the Huntley schools twenty years and now operates the Marlowe Feed & Hatchery. He was surprised to see so many old stone fences and houses in these areas. The Marlowes were visiting their son Lyle and family in London. Lyle is an engineer with Esso Oil Co. The Jubilee decorations and sights of London and Dover were of special interest. Side trips were made to the Isle of Jersey to visit the War Memorial Hospital and see the area where Jersey cows originated and to Wales to visit the Folk Museum. The museum was in two parts: a building to display materials of life and culture and an open air section on the environment of the material life. The St. Fayans Castle and land for the museum had been donated to Wales and was also open to the public. The Marlowes would like to visit the area again - especially when the Heather is in bloom.

OUR PICTURE STORY (at right)

On July eleventh, Winifred Cash Bridges was ninety years old. Her lifetime spans much more than half the time white people have been living in the county. Her great-grandparents, the Shubal Smiths, with their six sons, settled in Chemung township in 1840. (The farm is still occupied by members of the family, Mrs. Bridges' daughter and son-in-law, the Ralph Lacys, farming the place, and living in the big house built in 1868, while Mrs. Bridges lives in a smaller house.) Winifred was the only daughter of Edson and Sarah Smith Cash. Her father was a groceryman when the baby picture was taken but before she was a year old he bought a farm and moved his family to the Lawrence area. Here, the little girl and her brother would go to school. She recalls her tenth birthday and the little girls who walked over (some from several miles) to enjoy her party with her that July day in 1897. With Lawrence school finished, there came high school days, driving into Harvard. She graduated in 1905, third in the second largest class that school had graduated. After high school, she taught for several years. In 1914, she married Bert Bridges. They bought a farm near her parents and there they lived until 1970 when they moved to the Smith farm to be closer to their daughter. Their first child, a son, Edson, whose birth completed four living generations, gave his life in World War II. All her years have been devoted to her family, her church, and her community. Now widowed, she is still active in all these areas.

OBITUARY

The gentleman we write about today will be missed at the museum, although he has not been a McHenry County resident since 1921, when he moved to Roselle Illinois. Earl M. Crandall has retained his interest in his boyhood home, (he was born in Union in September, 1884) and was always willing to delve into his memory for needed facts and then willing to sit down and put them on paper. The museum was indebted to him for much information about the Union school, now the Museum building, and the first telephones in the area. He is survived by his wife, one of our senior members also. They were married seventy-three years ago. There are two sons and two daughters, eight grandchildren and twenty-one grand-children. Mr. Crandall had been active in church, civic affairs and lodge duties. So a full life comes to an end, but leaves a shining example.

ODDS'N'ENDS

Did you know that long before Union had rides available for short distances on cars, Harvard had a miniature train, built by George Shephard, which proceeded east on University street, pulled by a small edition steam engine. This was in 1905. Did you know that in the early days of its history, Algonquin had a school teacher, a Miss Phoebe Dunn, who weighed five hundred pounds? Besides teaching in the winter, she traveled with a circus during the summer. She died in 1870. A gentleman from the same town, Colonel Goshen, was also with the circus and billed as a giant because he was seven feet tall. He was connected with the Woods Museum in Chicago but made his home in Algonquin where he had a home built with ceilings and doorways that would be comfortable for his height.

Volume IV
No. 2 mailed Dec 2, 1977 (#12)

NICE THINGS

A great many things have been happening at your museum, most of them nice. We never have a complete list of all the things that are given to the museum, nor a complete list of all the nice things that are done for the museum and the historical society. But perhaps a mention of some things may remind other people of donations they intend making. The accessioning committee has worked very hard getting tags onto items that will not only tell what they are and who donated them and when, but frequently some little story. One of these items was an oil can with a big long spout that had been used by the Williams family on their threshing rig from 1903 to 1915 (the dates are approximate). "Pat" Williams, who is a director of McHenry County Historical Society, took the oil can to the slave sale at Huntley and when he gave it to be sold, suggested that

the buyer really should donate it to the society. It was sold to Elmer Britton for more than fifty dollars, and Mr. Britton did donate it to the museum. An earlier gift was a copy of "The New Era", once published every Thursday at Woodstock. Wm. D. Ringland was the editor and proprietor, and a subscription cost $1.50 per year. This copy the museum now has is dated June 22, 1876, consisted of four pages and was No. 30 of Volume III. Mrs. Fred Charles presented it to the museum. The Harvard High School Band sent one of their records, played by the state first place winning band, to the museum with the directors from Harvard one meeting night. Could we suggest similar donations from other schools within the county would be very welcome?

GUESTS AT BOARD MEETINGS

Almost every meeting of the board finds guests present. They are always very welcome, and are usually members of the society who are quite interested in the work of the organization. Recently we had other guests at two meetings. Steven Aradas, associated with the County Planning Commission, attended the August meeting. He reported on what he knew of historic preservation in the East, his former home, and said he would be willing to aid our museum in any way he could through the Planning Commission, even to entertaining an idea for adding a preservation planner to that body when it becomes economically feasible. In September our guests were from the County Board's financial committee and numbered three: Phyllis Walters, Dean Marlow and Ron Morris. Our treasurer, Ruth Cripe, had appeared before the board requesting funds for the museum, answering most of the questions they had asked, and "filing the rest in her mind." She took them home and typed the replies she had needed to look up. The members from the financial committee explained what they needed most was a copy of our actual expenditures and income for the present year and a projection for the coming year. Since the final budget meeting of the county board was September 29, Don Hildebrand assisted Mrs. Cripe in preparing this for presentation. At the October meeting, we were told that the museum had been included in the county's budget. When Ron Morris departed the September meeting, he left a cash donation.

CHANGES IN THIS QUARTER AND PROJECTED

There has been a change in caretakers at the museum. The Joseph Streits were a young couple, saving toward buying a home of their own. They moved out the first of October and one of the several couples interviewed by President Dorothy McEachren and other board members, Mr. and Mrs. William Bailey, moved in. At the September meeting, it was voted to begin daytime meetings for the board for the winter months November-April.

Also at the September meeting Dorothy announced she did not intend to accept the presidency of the society again. She furnished a letter to the secretary which was published with the directors' minutes, concerning what she has done and what is still needed for the museum and for the society to remain viable. She was absent from the October meeting, away on a trip of which we hope she will give us an account for the next *Tracer*. In her absence, the directors agreed that the society MUST prepare to hire a paid curator for the museum. Dorothy has not only been the president of the society, she has acted as curator of the museum on a volunteer basis putting in hours that only her love for the undertaking could make acceptable. It is obvious that she is irreplaceable, but if the society is to continue, a substitute must be found and several possible avenues of approach will be investigated.

SAD STORY

It does seem too bad that even our historical society paper should have such an item, but we must publish bad news as well as good that pertains to the organization. During the County Fair, the log cabin was broken into. Fortunately, none of the artifacts were taken but a hasp on the door was broken. Evidently the thief, or thieves, hoped to find the jar of donations.

PLEAS FOR HELP

We still need a typewriter with large type, preferably in working condition or easily restorable. This would be a working machine for use in the museum. If anyone has one just collecting dust, why not donate it to the museum? This is a request for some verbal help. Will the person who donated the wigs and the electric insulators please inform the museum staff who they are? The items were left in the office when its occupants were elsewhere in the building, and they cannot be properly accessioned until the donor is known. Also, he-or she-deserves a thank you. Repetition of some previously mentioned articles may keep them from being disposed of elsewhere: business cards, current and contemporary as well as old and present day clothing-men's and boys', womens' and girls' and babys'. One does not think of donating these items to a

historical museum but they are a part of life, and a part that often changes quite rapidly. The lady that wore the little black bonnet in 1867 that is so attractive to so many people who see it now in the costume room would never have thought it would one day be in such a place.

PROGRAMS

It was suggested at a recent board meeting that planned programs for the Sunday afternoons the museum is open through the summer might attract more people to the museum. As you probably know, there are a great many people in the county-some of them members -who have not been in the museum in a long, long time. They intend to come but it is one of those things that can be done any time and so is continually postponed. If they can see spinning, weaving, grape and apple pressing, and other old time skills, they might get around to it.

HARVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An outgrowth of Greater Harvard Area Book and the committee which worked on it has been thought of as a local society. A meeting earlier in the fall resulted in a board of directors being chosen and in October officers were elected. These were Professor Robert McCluggage, president, Gwendolyn Danner, vice-president; James Finke, treasurer and Vivian Jaworski, secretary with Carrie LeFew as curator. While there are no immediate thoughts or plans of a museum, a local society can play a very large part in educating the public, in collecting the stories of senior citizens, in finding and marking older buildings, and in protecting sites that have some local historical significance. During the Bicentennial it was learned that many Harvardites have long been collecting and saving items for and from their own families. Several of those attending the first meeting, brought some of these articles with them and a small exhibit was arranged. Quarterly meetings are planned with either similar small exhibitions or special speakers.

NOTES FROM OTHERS

A letter from Dorothy before she left on vacation told us that she had accompanied Richard Crabb and Kendall White to the Big Foot cemetery, and that there they had been successful in finding the Fish headstone. Your editor, Mrs. McEachren and Mr. Crabb had spent an afternoon hunting it earlier with no success. This time Mr. White had a marking pencil with him to outline the letters on the stone and Mr. Crabb was able to get pictures. Mrs. Fish was a Big Foot resident who had lived in three centuries. She was born in 1799 in Massachusetts, and she and her husband were the first family to settle in BigFoot. She told later that it was very lonely on the prairie and mentioned that the first thing she and her husband did upon arising each morning was to look all around the horizon to see if they could see any signs of smoke to indicate that another family had arrived in the area. When her husband had to go to Kenosha for supplies--much nearer than Chicago--the trip was made in the same wagon that, covered, had brought them from the east. Pulled by oxen, it took Mr. Fish three or four days to complete the trip and Mrs. Fish--her name was Asenath-- was so lonely that she used to drive the two pigs into the "lean-to" of the log house for company. They were the only other living creatures about that were not wild! Other settlers would come in the 1830s, and as an older lady, she was known to the whole settlement as "Aunt Cenie". Born in the administration of President John Adams, she lived through the times of twenty-three executives. McKinley was in office when she died. Both the 1968 County History and *The Crackerbarrel* (Elgin Historical Society paper) have told the story of when Mrs. Fish stopped smoking. We are not accustomed to thinking of ladies from Massachusetts smoking cob pipes but she had "all her life". When she was ninety-five, she went to California, by train, of course. On the journey, she lit her pipe and was told by the conductor that if she wished to smoke, she must go into the smoking car. Whether she even went to look for that car is no longer known, but she knew that it was filled with men, and she was very angry that the conductor would try to send her to join them. She refused to do so and threw her pipe away, never again smoking.

ALGONQUIN

A century ago, Algonquin was the leading town in business in the township of the same name. The town did not start out with that name. Its first settler was Dr. Andrew B. Cornish, and for his own convenience and that of those people who wished to cross the Fox River near him, he installed a ferry service, and naturally, everyone designated this site as "Cornish's Ferry". When numerous other families had also settled nearby, and a formal government was to be established, it was decided to call the town, "Osceola". However when they applied for state recognition, it was only to find that Illinois already had a town with that name. Living in Algonquin at that time was a man named Edwards who seems to have been a very "large frog in the small pool" that was their village. He owned a boat with the title of Algonquin, and when he suggested they name the town the same, his fellow citizens accepted it. This was the second settlement in the township, Crystal Lake having preceded it by a matter of months or a year, according to the 1877 Directory, Crystal Lake is said to have started in 1836 and Algonquin in 1836 or 1837. However, the post office at the latter town was the first in the township, and Dr. Cornish was the postmaster. Another early convenience in the village was the hotel, of which there is a good deal known. It began, in 1840, as a log structure of quite moderate dimensions. In 1850, William Powell, who had been the owner from the beginning, added a frame part which was used for eight years. At that time, James Dixon and John Gillilan tore it down and replaced it with a more modern structure. Later it was sold several times and became known as the Pingry Hotel, which was well and widely known as a summer resort. Like most towns in the county, churches were some of the first public buildings established. St. John's Protestant Episcopal church was organized in 1844. The Reverend Peter Arvidson had settled in the village in 1842 and he was the organizer with the aid of Dr. Warden. The Congregationalist society was formed in 1850 at the home of Ambrose Dodd. The other first members were Mr. and Mrs. James Humes, Mrs. Allen Kerns, Mr. and Mrs. John VanBuren, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Wright Warren, Mrs. Abigail Smock, and Mrs. Jane Foster. The minister was the Reverend I. C. Beach. Outside of farming, mills were always among the earliest businesses, and here on the Fox was power in plentitude. An "A. Dawson" built a sawmill at Algonquin in 1842, and began a grist mill. By the time the county directory was published in 1876, the sawmills had outlived their usefulness and been abondoned. But the gristmill that Dawson had started was finished in 1849 by Henry Petrie. Another was built by Dr. Thomas Plumleigh in 1850, a brick mill that was said to have cost twelve thousand dollars. In the 1870s, they had changed hands but were still prosperous businesses. At that time--the 1870s--Algonquin also boasted a butter and cheese factory, daily producing about seventy- five pounds of butter and five hundred pounds of cheese. Besides this, some five hundred eighty four thousand gallons of milk were sent to Chicago annually.

In 1876, the following businesses were included in the directory: three mills, Algonquin River Mills with G. M. Peacock, proprietor; G.D. Jayne; and Harvey and Marshall; one carriage manufacturer, Joseph Adamed, one blacksmith and wagon maker, A. Hamilton, and Joseph Adamek, harness maker; David Weaver was proprietor of the hotel; J. Snook and C.E. Williams were butchers; F. Tomisky, Chapell and Ferguson, Helm, John and Peter were general merchants; Thomas Evenson was the town's shoemaker. C.C. Chunn dealt in drugs, medicines, perfumes and fancy articles; and W. A. Mason, B. B. Bentley, and William Harback were doctors. This was a larger group of business men than listed their addresses at the senior settlement of the township.

Volume IV
No. 3 mailed March 18, 1978 (#13)

GOOD NEWS

The Museum has long thought a bee and honey exhibit would be good to have since the great bee keeper and author, Dr. Charles Miller, was a Marengo resident. Now another Marengo doctor, Dr. Emerson Kunde, is donating Dr. Miller's book, *Fifty Years Among the Bees*, to the Museum, which has also been the recipient of bee equipment, one beehive body, some brood frames to fit in, a queen excluder, super honeycomb boxes, and a smoker.

MORE THINGS OF INTEREST

At the January meeting of the County Historical Society, President Dorothy McEachren announced that Mrs. Olive Nolan of Woodstock has been appointed chairman of the Genealogical Research Committee. Mrs. Nolan has been serving as our researcher for some months, spending hours at the County Courthouse endeavoring to find answers to the many questions from persons all over the country whose "roots" are in McHenry County. Alice and Leta Clark have just completed the course in genealogy offered by MCC. "Our work with membership and accessioning at the Museum prohibit us from becoming members of Mrs. Nolan's committee, although we hope to spend spare time researching our own family history. We have tried for years with little success to learn more about our Clark background. Will our readers help?

ITEMS ABOUT HISTORICAL HOUSES

The old Ostend Schoolhouse which formed the nucleus of the Ostend community (Winter, 1977 *Tracer*) has recently been purchased by Bill and Kim Sanatowics who are doing extensive remodeling of the interior. They have torn out both the ten foot ceiling and the old thirteen foot ceiling and all the partitions which were put in at the time the building was transformed into a dwelling about a quarter of a century ago. The main floor will be an open area with a twelve foot wide space left for a bedroom which will be reached via ladder. The Sanatowics are deeply interested in the history of their new home. By studying the 1862 and the 1872 maps of McHenry County, it was determined that the school was built sometime during that decade. The old 1862 map which Horace Wagner (one of our members) found in the walls of an old house in Wonder Lake show the location of the old log school half a mile west of its present location. In Harvard, Vivian and Jim Jackowski, who bought the Lake house on Hart boulevard two years ago, have plans for only one architectural change. They plan to enlarge the kitchen in a year or so. This will be done by stealing some space from the library. Most of what they have done so far has been repair work. Albert Butts had built the house for James Lake in 1903, with M. A. Stafford being the architect, and George Lake retained everything as his parents had had them, keeping much the same colors each time he redecorated. The Jackowskis have made changes there. When the dining room ceiling had to be replaced, they redecorated the dark green room with yellow and white. Nice to know that many of the older houses in our county are in the hands of interested and caring young people.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

During the winter a good many plans for the summer are instigated. Your Society's Board is planning to have programs in the Museum on Sunday afternoons through the summer. Several board members have already chosen what Sunday they will be responsible for

and the programs so far have been quite varied. In the Spring *Tracer* we hope to give you a schedule. If anyone has an idea of something he--or she!--would like to see, a note to the *Tracer* would be very acceptable. All the Sundays, and all the Board members, are not yet programmed.

HELP WANTED

This seems a good place to add some other "wants". From our membership chairman, Leta Clark, comes this appeal: Wanted: More representation from Woodstock and Crystal Lake! Since the great majority of our members live in these two areas, there should be more interested persons willing to serve on the Board of the Historical Society or willing to volunteer their time helping to prepare the Museum for its opening. The display committee especially needs volunteers. Reminders were sent in December to the many members who failed to pay their dues for the year. We have been pleased with the results with many paying for two or even three years in advance. Some included extra amounts as donations. Still, there are a number who have overlooked paying their dues. Probably their reminders were lost in the Christmas rush. If you are one, please send in your dues soon. We hate to lose you as a member, but our constitution states that persons who are delinquent six months will be dropped from the membership lists. Please check your records.

SCOUT REPORT

At the November meeting, Ann Rademaker, the Board Secretary, and Nancy Petzelt her co-worker with the Girl Scout troop who had been working at the Museum, felt they should report the enthusiasm the girls displayed, and Ann made such a report. At that time, the girls had gone through all the old Bibles and taken the genealogies. They also worked on scrapbooks to acquire death information of McHenry County people. Another group went through all the small pieces of embroidery and cut work; this they retagged under the direction of Ramona Martin. Help from young people is to be valued "above rubies".

SPRING IS COMING

Before the next issue, marble season will be over. We have been holding this set of rules for "Ring Taw" for months, to have it for the right time of year. We do not have the name of the director who provided this, but marbles in the spring probably came to Northern Illinois and our county with the first families that had sons with them. You do know, I am sure that you do not need to be male, nor young, to play!

RING TAW MARBLES

Marbles are usually 1/2 inch diameter, one used by player called a "taw". No specific number specified for game. Knuckle of forefinger placed on ground, marble balanced on forefinger with the thumb behind. Two circles are drawn on ground, the larger about a foot in diameter and the inner about 7 inches. Each player puts one or two marbles in inner circle. Each player shoots in turn from any point outside the outer circle. If player knocks one or more out of the inner circle, he wins those marbles and is also entitled to another shot. This shot is taken from where his taw came to rest when he first shot. If player fails to knock any marble from the inner circle, his turn ends and he must leave his taw where it stopped. Succeeding players may shoot at any marble within either circle, taws as well as marbles originally placed in inner circle. Whenever a taw is hit, its owner must pay one marble to player who hit it. After his first turn each player shoots his taw from where it came to rest at end of his previous turn. Game ends when all marbles have been cleared from inner circle. There are many variations: Spangy, for which you must have five players, Increase Pound, Fortifications, Bounce Eye, Wall Marbles, Die Shot, Hundreds, Three Holes, Archbound, Picking Plums, Dobblers, and One Step.

ALDEN'S OLDEST RESIDENT

Meet Jessie Bowdish, who will reach the century mark in May. She is still an active lady who prepares her own meals, and those of the women who stay with her, washes and wipes the dishes, bakes a cherry or blueberry pie every week, is interested in state and national news as well as the local variety, and is living in the house where she was born, with Dr. Munson in attendance. Jessie Pamelia was the third child of Charles Rollin Andrews and his wife, who had been Hattie Douglas. Both were from New York. Charles had come to Alden to work in the store of his uncle, George An-

Daddy, Mother, Jessie, Loraine and Lawren

Jessie and Will Bowdish

Age 18

Age 51

Age 99

drews, from Green County and Hattie had come to Waukegan from Oswego. When Charles was twenty he joined the 95th Illinois Regiment, Company C, serving from 1860 until 1863. He came home with a military mien and a long beard he had grown to protect his chest from the eternal colds of the poorly clad, poorly fed soldier. He went back to the store and continued working there through the times of several owners, being postmaster at the store for many, many years. He was one of those who went on the excursion train (in grain cars!) to raise money for the Alden church. Long before this, he had bought the horse and buggy of a minister who was leaving Alden, and used it to go courting Miss Douglas. They were married in 1869. Jessie attended grade school next door to her home in Alden. Her best friend was Minnie Carroll. When she finished grade school, she attended high school in Hebron for a year, going every day on the KD, leaving at six thirty in the morning and returning at six at night. When she was fourteen she began sewing for other people, and at nineteen had become what was thought of as professional and went to homes where she made up clothing for the family to last until she could come again next season. She was twenty-four when she married William Bowdish and went to live in Walworth. They had two children, Loraine, born in 1908 and Lawren, in 1911. The daughter died in the influenza epidemic of 1918. Lawren created the Badger Marine Company. When her mother needed her after Mrs. Douglas became bedridden, she came back to Alden, and again, after her mother's death, when her sister-in-law was left alone. Now the sister-in-law, who is also an old lady, is in a rest home, and Jessie Bowdish lives alone where she was born.

As mentioned here last time, there have been efforts over the years to create *Tracer* content indices. I have some elements, but nothing complete. So, that's still a vital volunteer effort waiting to happen. Have time and want to help? Call me.

Crafting each *Tracer* issue requires many, many hours. I apologize this issue didn't reach you sooner. Time is a challenge, so if you'd like to help, please reach out.

The *Tracer* is your chance to do some of your own writing. Get published! Send me your local history stories! I'll help you out.

Honoring our founders by bringing their voices back to these pages is rewarding. The *Tracer* will continue to evolve, with your help.

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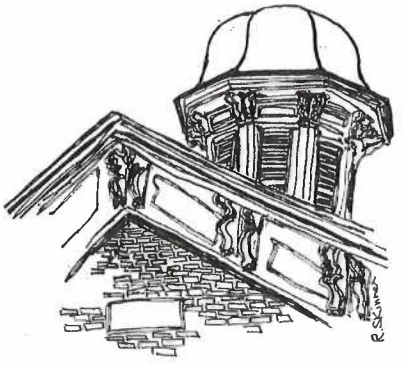


Santa Visits in McHenry County

You better watch out, you better not cry.
Better not pout. I'm telling you why.
Santa Claus is coming to town.

BY ED URBAN

You've probably heard this song many times; especially if you listen to that radio station that plays Christmas Carols twenty-four-seven during the holiday season. John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie wrote the song in the early 1930's and it was first recorded in 1934.

Santa Claus or St. Nicholas has been visiting towns around the world for much longer than the song has been around. According to legend, St. Nicholas was born in what today is known as Myra Turkey around 280 AD, and lived well into the fourth century. The legend of Santa worked its way through Europe – Germany, France, England, and the Netherlands, and eventually came to the United States most likely with the Dutch.

Over the years, Santa has made his share of appearances in McHenry County. Of course we know he comes to town in the wee hours of the morning every 25th of December, but in addition to Christmas, he has dropped in on many other occasions.

The first documented visit of Santa Claus in McHenry County where people had interaction with him dates back to 1867. In that year, Santa made an appearance in Solon Mills where he met the townsfolk "under the shade of the evergreen Christmas tree." Scribbler, author of the letter printed in the *Woodstock Sentinel*, described Santa as "a comical looking chap," and reported that he gifted fruit to those who were present. In appreciation for the visit and gifts, the local choir entertained the generous Santa Claus with song.

His next reported visit was in 1872 at the Presbyterian Church in Marengo where he handed out presents to the "Sunday school scholars, and others." Santa was entertained by "singing, short addresses, and other interesting ceremonies." That same year Santa also dropped in on the "overflowing crowd" gathered at the Presbyterian Church on Christmas Eve in Woodstock. After the service was concluded, the announcement was made that Santa is expected soon, and the children cheered in delight. Santa made his entrance "decked in fur, and leaning upon a staff." He worked his way through the excited crowd of children to the brilliantly illuminated Christmas tree where he handed out gifts and "salutary advice." When Santa's sack was empty he worked his way to the door followed by the children, and according to the January 2, 1873, *Woodstock Sentinel* he "galloped away with his reindeer span."

In 1889 Santa Claus made two appearances in Harvard. The Presbyterian Church constructed a cozy "Chimney Corner" for Santa's visit where he sat and presented gifts to the church's Sabbath School students. At the Congregational Church, a fishing pond surrounded by a copse of evergreens was created, and Santa fished gifts out one-by-one and delivered them to the happy children.

It seems like for the remainder of the 1800's Santa limited himself to church and Sunday schools activities, although on many occasions his name was invoked by local merchants. One example of this was published in the December 9, 1892, edition of *The Harvard Herald* where H.W. Blodgett dubbed his store as Santa Claus' Headquarters, and boasted that the store had the "largest line of toys, dolls, games, fancy crockery, plush and celluloid goods, books, lamps" and that the prices were "way down." Another example appeared in the December 23, 1898, issue of the Marengo Republican News, where shopkeeper George F. Renwick advertised to the boys and girls of Marengo that, "It would not be out of place to suggest to Santa Claus that he can find what you want at our store."

After the turn of the century, Santa extended his visits to McHenry County beyond the scope of local churches and his anticipated arrivals made headlines in the local press. Santa also embraced the latest in transportation technology. In 1909 it was reported that Santa would come to Marengo on a car belonging to the Elgin and Belvidere Electric Railway. Unfortunately no written account can be found of that visit. Two years later, on December 8, 1911, the newspaper announced that, "Santa is coming to Marengo, Sunday, December 9." That year he arrived on the 10:33 a.m. train, and he wanted the boys and girls to "meet him at the train and go with him to his Headquarters." And meet him they did! According to the newspaper hundreds of children met Santa at the depot and crowded around him. It took some time for him to shuffle through the crowd to get to his headquarters, which was The Fair Department Store.

In 1938, Santa proved himself to be the daredevil when he not only planned to fly to Woodstock, but he skipped the landing altogether. The December 6, 1938, *Daily Sentinel* reported that Santa was "adopting modern methods," and "made arrangements to visit Woodstock next Saturday, coming to this city in an airplane and dropping to terra firma with a parachute." Santa was scheduled to arrive over Woodstock between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM and circle the city dropping "sundry gift tickets" to the children below before dropping himself from the airplane.

This was a brilliant and exciting plan. What could possibly go wrong? Well something did. The airplane that Santa hired "cracked-up" near Whitewater, Wisconsin, and had to make a "forced landing" according to the December 12, 1938 *Daily Sentinel*. The pilot was severely injured in the mishap. The article didn't say if Santa was on the airplane, but it did reveal that he made arrangements for another plane. Santa finally made his appearance at 4:00 PM, too late to participate in the Christmas program and the article pointed out that many children and parents were disappointed.

The following year Santa just showed up in Woodstock again but his mode of transportation wasn't reported. In 1940 he came in on an airplane again. However, this time the plane safely landed and he didn't parachute into town.

In 1948, Santa again aroused the crowds when he chose another unconventional mode of transportation for his Harvard visit. He switched out his traditional sleigh and reindeer for a helicopter. The visit went off without a hitch and Santa kept his appointment at the Saunders Theater where, according to the December 16, 1948 issue of *The Harvard Herald*, the line of children "stretched south on Ayer to the theater, and curved around the corner on East Brainard Street until children were lined up to the Herald Office." Santa's patience was on display that day because he greeted each child and passed out gifts from his "bulging sack."

In 1942 Santa arrived in Crystal Lake in a sleigh, but his reindeer must have been resting up for the big night because at the head of the sleigh was a pony. In an interview with the *Crystal Lake Herald* Santa said, "I was swamped with requests and toys of a military nature seemed to top the list. I assured all of them, war or no war, that they would not be overlooked." By the 1950's, Santa changed his mode of transportation to Crystal Lake. He ditched the pony and for much of the decade he arrived by train. Newspaper reports from the 1950's describe how hundreds of children waited at the train depot to greet Santa upon his arrival. The December 11, 1958, *Crystal Lake Herald* pointed out the convenience of Santa coming to town because "parents will not find it necessary to make the tiresome and time-consuming trip treks to other towns…"

While in McHenry County, Santa Claus pursued the activities with which he's most associated. He visited churches, stores, and people's homes where he handed out candy, small gifts, visited with children, and took their Christmas gift orders. However, in one reported instance, Santa managed to put smiles on the faces of adults too. In December of 1941 he surprised the employees at the Starline, Inc. plant in Harvard, and distributed bonus checks. The December 18, 1941, issue of *The Harvard Herald* reported, "Santa Claus sped through the plant," and left in his wake, the merriest, happiest group of employees imagined as they gazed at their bonus checks…"

This has been a very brief history of Santa visiting McHenry County, and there's no indication whatsoever that Santa is going to stop visiting anytime in the near future. So heed these words:

He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake.

Ed Urban has been a resident of McHenry County since 1971, and he serves on the MCHS board. In addition to local McHenry County history, Ed has an interest in the American Civil War, and the history of the Wild West. Ed and his wife Diane live in Coral Township.

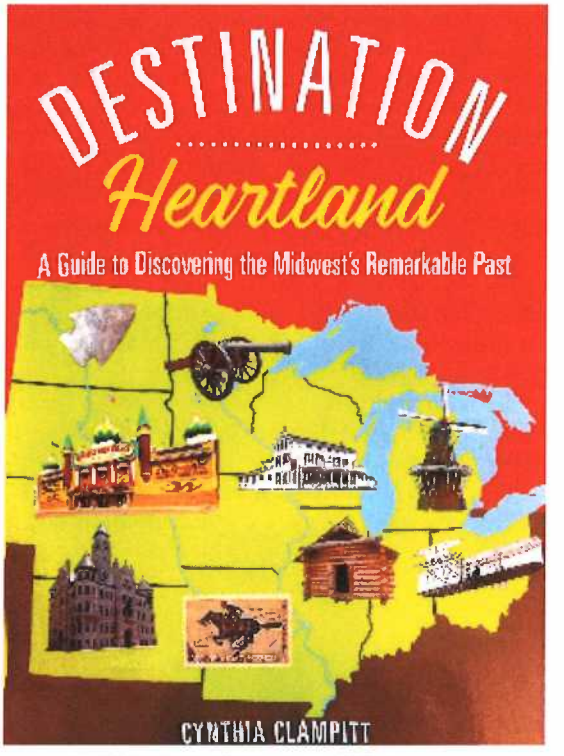
New Feature: Local History Book Review

BY DON ROSE

To help expand the Tracer's focus, I'll now be including occasional local history-oriented book reviews. And, I invite you, as one of our loyal (or brand new!) readers, to send in ***your*** *written work, including your personal family history stories, popular themes like locally historic scandal & intrigue, what you've discovered about your property, local history research you've found amazing or fascinating, oral histories from McHenry County residents you've known or learned about, and of course, book reviews like this one.* ***You need not be a skilled writer to submit.*** *This offer is open to all of our readers.*

Destination Heartland

© 2022, by Cynthia Clampett
Illinois Humanities Road Scholar



U of I Imprint: 3 Fields Books · ISBN 978-0-252-08637-3

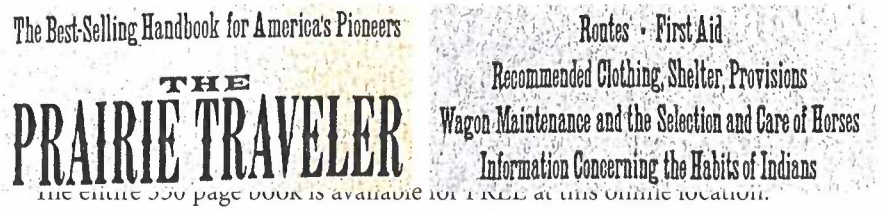
My choice to start this book review series is a real gem. In her introduction, our author asks:

"Why Midwestern History?"

Clampett offers two notable quotations: "Europe stretches to the Alleghenies; America lies beyond." (Ralph Waldo Emerson) and "This great interior region is naturally one of the most important in the world." (Abraham Lincoln)

She also explains that Frederick Jackson Turner related that individualism, independence, egalitarian spirit, and a sense of nationhood grew on the frontier, which in the 1800s meant what we now call *the Midwest*. She thinks people need to know not only how foundational it is, but also how many sensational, fun places there are to explore the events that shaped both the region and the nation.

In Chapter One, she effectively boils local history down to fourteen pages covering the glacial years, trappers, traders, pioneers, settlers, the Civil War and the eighty-two year period when our massive region went from unexplored territory to twelve settled states. She mentions a fascinating and very popular 1859 book (fully illustrated), written by U.S. Army Captain Marcy and published jointly by Harper and the U.S. War Department. It's titled *THE PRAIRIE TRAVELER*.



The entire 350 page book is available for FREE at this online location:

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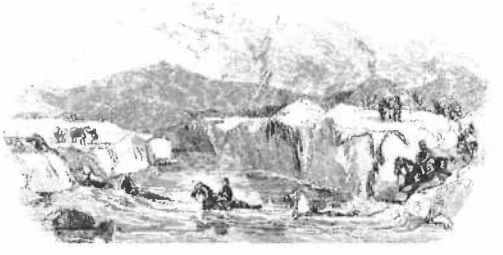

Having grown up in Illinois, I believe our author here is right on track with her perspectives. It's clear she's done a bunch of focused research as she compiled this book. I've traveled quite a bit myself, but know I've not yet found time to explore all that our beloved midwest has to offer. The balance of the book provides enjoyable personal experience-based narratives in each of over one hundred places of interest, laced with rich history all along the way. She includes a recipe for pickled ham and a nice overview of Herbert Hoover's boyhood home in West Branch, Iowa, which I also found fascinating when I was there. Clampett includes a thorough treatise on authenticity, written by Kay Cynova, Director of Interpretive Resources at the Grand Island, Nebraska Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneeer. The focus here on this vitally important topic is notable.

This book is a wonderful armchair & travel companion and is also a source for your own excursion planning. She breaks her choices down by chapters covering a very wide range: living history venues, open air museums, vintage sites, historic homes, frontier forts, archaelogical sites, many museums, historic towns and enclaves. Our own museum in Union is touched upon in chapter four, within the context of the Illinois Railway museum. She has limited but kind words to say about us. With this book, it's very easy to crack it open, grab a bit of time, and live vicariously through Cynthia.

Places are suggested for participation, including reenacting and volunteering. If you'd like to visit and stay, her selection of historic inns and restaurants is excellent. At the end, she provides a rich list of resources for additional reading. The book closes with a summary of destinations by state and provides a handy listing of statehood dates. Her index is useful and quite complete. For me, the bottom line is that this well-written book is worth your time and attention. ❧

showed up but somewhere in the records it will tell you. And, they decided the best place to hold it was in Woodstock because it was the county seat. And, it would settle any questions about where things should go. If somebody in Hebron wanted to donate something but if the thing came from Crystal Lake there would be too much scrapping over where it should actually end up. So, this was a neutral spot at the county seat. So, that's how it ended up in Woodstock. She [Dorothy] had a lot of help from the woman who was then the head librarian in Woodstock. A woman named Laura Wandrack. And, her history goes back to Algonquin where, I think, her father was sheriff at one time. So, those two women were really the power house behind it being set up.

BF – As long as we're talking about Dorothy McEachren, what do you remember about Dorothy and her personality?

NF – Dorothy was a "no nonsense" individual. She was very wealthy because of her family and she grew up in a family that valued good conversation and public involvement. I want to back up a little and tell a little about Dorothy's background. I always regret that I interviewed her too late in her life when a lot of her memory was gone. I should have interviewed her way before I did because she was 90 at the time, or almost 90. I think she died at 90. Anyway, she grew up in Chicago and her parents were what you would call "intellectuals." They would host dinners where Clarence Darrow and Emma Goldman, who was a major Communist leader in the early days of the [20th] century, [would attend]. People of that caliber at her house. So, Dorothy grew up listening to the conversations and stuff like that. She traveled with her father. He used to write, and this wasn't his main job, travelogues for the *Chicago Tribune* and he and Dorothy would go on these steamer ships – tramp steamers.

BF – Oh, o.k.

NF – So, she got the experience of world wide travel with her dad and she married a man named Malcolm McEachren and he was a member of some Black Horse Marching group connected with the city of Chicago. They were part of that "Chicago farm movement" out to the country because it was happening during the 30's when land was cheap out here and if you had a little money to invest you could get some good property. So, shortly after he [Malcolm] came out here, well, he passed away. So, anyway, that was Dorothy's early life. Now, as I knew her when I first started volunteering, she wasn't the type of person you'd run up and hug. But she was extremely generous with her knowledge and anything she knew. I would say she was an excellent mentor because all of my training really, because I had no background in administrative work, came from Dorothy. And, when I became Administrator whenever I thought I was doing something pretty good here and pat myself on the back all I would have to do was look back in the files and see what Dorothy had done and tried, it was the same thing I had done and even better. I had extreme respect for her.

BF – You used the term she was a "no nonsense" type of person. So, she didn't suffer fools lightly?

NF – No, she had no time for that.

BF – So, was it her way or the highway?

NF – Pretty much in the beginning. So, I was lucky I wasn't the first person hired.

BF - You weren't? Who was?

NF - I was on the committee to hire the first person.

BF - Who was that?

NF - The first person we hired was a man by the name of Mark Haggitt. He was there probably two years and then he went down to a museum in Tennessee to become a curator. Yes, but Dorothy was a "no nonsense" person. She, like anything else, this was her baby; this was something she developed. She had run it for so many years and wanted to make sure that her vision carried on. Like any non-profit organization run by all volunteers, when you hire someone, you know they need to take over but you don't want to let up on your authority. Mark, the first curator, I felt sorry for because he caught the brunt of "you're not doing this right. You're not doing it the way I want to do it" – so, things of that sort.

BF – Do you remember what year it was that you were hired?

NF – I remember exactly. It was in March of 1981.

(Be here next time when Bob's interview with Nancy concludes)

At left, Nancy outside Gannon Cabin.

At right, a Nancy moment from our 50th at the Starline Factory, 2013.

Second Edition!

More Quilts of the
HERITAGE QUILTERS

Presented by
The McHenry County Historical Society
Union, Illinois

Since 1987, the Heritage Quilters have been very generous with their time and talents by making unique, hand-sewn quilts benefitting our society. Their first quilt history book (now sold out) was published in 2011. This second edition, expanded to a full 48 pages, includes photographs of their twelve latest quilts and a detailed narrative, to help commemorate their dedicated ongoing work. To purchase your own copy, call our office, visit <**mchenrycountyhistory.org/museum-store**> or send email to <info@mchenrycountyhistory.org> for a mail-in order form. All proceeds benefit the society.

Please order your copy today.

Quilt Book CONTENTS

-Introduction
-How We Make a New Quilt

-Our Quilts, Year by Year

2012 .....Old Favorite
2013 .....Jenny's Legacy
2014 .....Mostly Morris
2015 .....Mood Indigo
2016 .....Pieceful Garden
2017 .....Threads of Friendship
2018 .....Forever Poppies
2019 .....Honoring Adelia
2020 .....Fit To Be Tied
2021 .....Small Town Square
2023 .....Heritage Stars
2024 .....Prairie Basket

-Our very own quilter extraordinaire
-Changing of the Guard
-Illinois and County Quilt Registration
-Museum Collection and Storage
-Huntley restoration
-Care and storage of quilts in private collections
-By the Way, Did you Know...
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McCartney Family In McHenry County

BY DAVID MCCARTNEY

Merle and Jessie (Graehling) McCartney moved to Marengo ninety-three years ago from Dixon, Illinois pulling a hay wagon with a chicken coop loaded on top and a pony inside the chicken coop.

Merle was born January 2, 1893 in Eagle Point Township, Ogle County, Illinois to Isaac E. and Annis (Bellows) McCartney. Jessie was born May 17, 1891 on a farm nine miles west of Polo, Illinois to George Washington and Anna S. (Bea) Graehling. Merle and Jessie married January 23, 1912 in the St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Polo. While residing in the Polo area, Merle (with truck below) worked as a mechanic, a farmer and Raleigh Medicine route salesman while Jessie (at 18, right) raised their four children: Donald, Maxine, Joe and Vernon. Merle passed away December 12, 1978 and Jessie March 14, 1988. Merle and Jessie are buried in the Marengo City Cemetery

Jessie and Merle's parents remained in the Dixon/Polo area throughout their lifetime. Isaac and Annis, Merle's parents, raised Merle and his siblings in Hazelhurst Illinois. Isaac worked at the local farm implement store in Hazelhurst across from their residence. Later Isaac and Annis purchased and ran the Maxwell House boarding house in Milledgeville as well as the Hotel Orient in Polo where Isaac passed away. Interestingly, Isaac was orphaned at the age of two while living in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. Isaac's mother died of sickness and his father died during his service in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the death of his parents, Isaac was brought to Polo and raised by the Copenhaver family. Mrs. Copenhaver was Isaac's great-aunt.

Jessie's parents, George and Anna, were farmers in the Canada Settlement/Polo area. Shortly after the birth of Ronald Reagan (1911) in Tampico, Illinois, George and Anna purchased a general store next to the President's birthplace on Main Street before retiring to Dixon Illinois where their son Donald attended Dixon High School with Ronald Reagan.

Upon arrival in Marengo in 1931, Merle and Jessie rented the first farm near the overpass on Getty Road (note: the farm buildings have since been torn down). They lived on Getty for five years before purchasing an 80-acre farm for $10,000, two miles east at 19522 Harmony Road, directly across from the current Lehman's Lakeside RV Resort and Campground. There was no campground at the time they moved to Harmony, just a man-made lake and former gravel pit. Merle worked as a petroleum salesman for McHenry Co. Farm Service (FS) for many years in conjunction with maintaining and operating his farm. Jessie helped on the farm, raising her children, and enjoyed gardening and canning fruit and vegetables. Jessie never learned to drive a vehicle during her lifetime but could easily hitch a horse and buggy, saddle and ride a horse and butcher a hog in her early years.

This is where my story begins. My name is David McCartney, a grandson of Merle and Jessie and son of Vernon and Verda (Ray) McCartney. In 1963 my parents purchased three acres from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fox in Riley Township, constructing a four-bedroom ranch house in an old cow pasture near the intersection of Coral Rd. and Route 23. As an 11-year-old, I vividly remember taking down the pasture fence along Route 23 and gathering up all the large boulders in the pasture. My father Vernon (1927-2012) was a common fixture in the Marengo/Union and Riley area delivering milk and dairy products for Muller's Pinehurst Dairy of Rockford (photo at right). His customer base included farms, house-to-house, schools, grocery stores, taverns, factories and restaurants driving his easily recognized yellow Ford Divco milk truck. Many a farm dog would eagerly lie in wait for the yellow truck to arrive chasing it down the dusty rural gravel roads. Maxine McCartney (1916-2002), my father's older and only sister owned and ran the well-known Marengo boutique, the "Marie Ann Dress Shop" for more than twenty years. Joe McCartney (1918-1989), another sibling of Vernon, was a well-known farmer also in the Marengo area. Vernon's oldest sibling, Donald (1912-2001), moved to the Denver area at an early age where he raised his family. My mother Verda (1931-2023), in addition to raising myself and three siblings, was a stay-at-home mom until she reentered the workplace in 1964. She worked for McGill Metal Products in Marengo and represented that company in a live broadcast of the CBS TV "What's My Line" 16th Anniversary Show in New York City in February 1966. She later worked as secretary and bookkeeper for Riley School and then for the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Marengo where she taught catechism classes.

David McCartney, Ed.D. holds degrees in Elementary Education, Educational Media and a Doctorate in Instructional Technology (NIU). David is a retired educator/adjunct college professor and resides with his wife and son in Naperville, Illinois. His family history website, mccartneyhistory.org, summarizes 35 years of research..

I have fond recollections of riding the Riley school bus growing up in Riley Township and attending Riley Grade school from grades 5 through 8. Frequently during recess several classmates and I would practice pole vaulting with a bamboo pole, homemade standards and a sand pit to land in on the playground. On our final day of 8th grade, our small class of 17 students was rewarded by math teacher and Coach Jim Allison with an afternoon hike in Riley Township following along the local creek collecting specimens of bugs, frogs and basically anything that moved under its own power! During the summers I would sometimes ride my bike to visit my grandmother Jessie's farm five miles away down a gravel road, now Maple Street. Even as a youth, I always enjoyed talking with Jessie and asking her questions about what life was like growing up in the late 1800 and early 1900s before the advent of autos, airplanes, electricity, television and modern-day conveniences such as indoor bathrooms! During these visits she taught me how to play solitaire and make minor sewing repairs on clothing. My brother and I would also play in the barn hayloft and mow her one acre farmyard. My grandfather Merle and I would pull weeds by hand from his 80 acre bean field, an all-day project in my teen years.

Similarly, my father Vernon had warm memories of growing up on the Harmony Rd. farm and attending West Harmony's one-room school house located at the intersection of Harmony Rd and Royal Lane. The school was later moved to Union Illinois and now serves as part of the McHenry County Historical Society site. My father frequently reminisced about riding his pony to school, and at times playing hookey to his mother's chagrin while en route. During another instance at the age of five, Vernon took off with his parent's hitched buggy and horse traveling several miles down the road stopping at a neighbor's house. When the neighbors called Vernon's parents on the telephone alerting them to Vernon's whereabouts, Merle and Jessie instructed the neighbor to simply turn the buggy around with Vernon in it and send him home. Horses always knew the way home!

In the summer of 1970, I had an epiphany when visiting with my grandmother Jessie, as she was showing me old family photos. Jessie brought out several boxes of photos, some that I had seen previously over the years. Her photo collection I later discovered numbered in the thousands! The collection included but was not limited to boxes of photos and her father and grandfather's personal photo albums. Jessie's photos included prints of Teddy Roosevelt, Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill Cody, noted celebrities at the turn-of-the-century as well as prints of the 1893 Columbia Exposition in Chicago. What amazed me was her recall. She was a living-wealth of information and was able to name the majority of the people in all photos describing the location and events of each. My epiphany was that I realized when she passed, all information about the family photos would be gone. At that time I was twenty-two years old and she was 79 (Jessie lived another seventeen years). I decided to spend the next few weeks with her that summer recording all information she knew on the backs of the original photos. I also copied some of the photos that summer with a macro lens and copy stand. More recently since retiring, I scanned the entire photo collection at high resolution and edited each photo individually in Photoshop which turned into to a three-year project. I have now shared my digital collection with several historical societies and all immediate family members.

Strangely or by happenstance, the McCartney family settled in Marengo in 1931. This by and of itself would not be an unusual occurrence, except for the fact that Marengo was the same city where Jessie's parents, George and Anna Graehling's wedding bible was published forty-one years earlier in 1890 by Merrick Piper, a Marengo publisher! (*Belvidere Daily Republican*, 16 October 1905, page 7).

As Paul Harvey would say, "...and that's the rest of the story!"

MCHS Facts:
What WE do for YOU and other fine county residents
Please lend a hand.

• In 2026, we'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of our museum opening on July 4th, 1976. This is very much a top-of-mind opportunity for us - you'll continue to hear more. America250 will also be celebrated nationwide during that year, and we'll play a key local history role.

• In 2024, as we celebrate our founding 61 years ago, the McHenry County Historical Society and its members have a proud track record, rich in preservation, education, and entertainment contributions to McHenry County. We continue to evolve, focused upon HISTORY EDUCATION, CIVIC AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION. Our website, `mchenrycountyhistory.org` is undergoing changes, so please bear with us as that effort continues to evolve. Your input is of special interest to us.

• We spearheaded efforts to develop a McHenry County Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1990. Most larger municipalities followed our lead with their own local ordinances.

• We restored & continue to preserve the 1847 Gannon log cabin, 1867 Pringle School, 1886 Seneca Town Hall, 1895 West Harmony School, 1898 Riley Methodist Church & one of the 1950s Orsolini Modern Tourist Cabins from Richmond (reconstructed inside our museum!)

• Your almost-full city block museum campus in Union includes the 1870 native limestone Union School and other properties. We encourage you to visit often to discover what's new.

• **Without any use of tax dollars**, we continue to collect and preserve three-dimensional artifacts of local human progress. We are also bringing online collection access to our patrons in innovative ways - watch for this to increase in the next few years!

• Our educational programs foster thinking, to help connect the realities of today with insightful perspective on the continuous flow of history.

• Our Historic Sites committee has identified and provided commemorative plaques in almost one hundred notable locations throughout our county.

• We honor and assist local organizations and businesses with preservation of their unique historic legacies. In 2010, we held our Business Diamond Jubilee, saluting McHenry County businesses in operation for 75 + years. If you run a legacy business, please reach out.

• Your museum provides a family-oriented entertainment and educational destination, uniquely and interactively telling the ongoing story of McHenry County and its people.

• As a resource for local history information, we field and respond to many daily requests on preservation, properties, notable citizens, family history, business history, historic images and object conservation. Our skilled staff is always willing to hear of your interests.

• Your research library (primarily free to members) houses thousands of technical books and pamphlets, photographs, postcards, maps, journals; business, club, school and governmental records; local history books, biographical files, scrapbooks, newspapers, phone directories, high school yearbooks and knowledgeable people with answers to all sorts of questions. We celebrated our 40th anniversary of library service in 2022. View the commemorative event flyer here:

mchenrycountyhistory.org/sites/default/files/2209-RL-40th-Brochure-DR.pdf

• We create learning experiences and events. We participate in the activities of like-minded organizations throughout McHenry and Lake County.

• We have fun while teaching, learning, and experiencing history together - our outreach to young families continues. If your family would like to participate, please reach out.

• In 2011, we helped create the Northern Illinois Quilt Fest, in cooperation with many fine people across all six Northern Illinois counties. We also support our own local Heritage Quilters group and their annual raffle quilt. Their second book was just published in October, 2023.

• Preserving community history provides multi-sensory collective memory. Ultimately, our goal is to encourage the appreciation of all aspects of our environment, both natural and manmade. Appreciation of history will most definitely enrich your family's lives and experiences.

• Those individuals who are sensitive to their environment make better citizens. Better citizens vote, they participate in community life and they teach their children by example.

• Members, volunteers and friends of the McHenry County Historical Society are amazing people. Invite others to join our continuing quest to preserve and share local history.

Editor's Note: Although these facts have grown into place over the years, they were not together in a single list until I edited Tracers in 2008-2011. I update this list each issue; your input is welcomed. We also maintain a timeline of our organizational history that you'll soon see in the Tracer. -Don

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[Editor's Note: This bears repeating]

Gannon Cabin History

Our Gannon log cabin was built in 1847 by Luke Gannon and moved from the McHenry County Fairgrounds in Woodstock (shown still there at left) to our museum campus in Union in 1980. It's furnished for that time period --- we now open it for our Heritage Fair and Cider Fest.

Around Gannon's time, U.S. Grant was just graduating from West Point. The territory of Wisconsin had yet to be admitted to the Union. Luke built his log cabin near Crystal Lake, in what is now the Village of Lakewood. A native of Ireland, he was 15 when he immigrated to the United States. After helping build the Erie Canal in New York, he and his wife, Margaret, settled on farmland now part of the Turnberry Country Club.

His first task was to fell some oak trees, square them into logs and assemble a cabin that would serve as temporary shelter until a "permanent" house could be built. What makes Luke Gannon's unremarkable log cabin so remarkable is that it still stands--not in Turnberry, but in our museum's own front yard. The cabin's condition has been "stabilized" since it was moved to Union. By that time, roughly 130 years after Luke built it, the little structure had already undergone many renovations. The iron stove at its center is gone and some of the beams show circular saw marks – something impossible when it was built.

Now, almost 176 years after it was built, Luke's little cabin needs preservation work again. Just let us know, when you donate, that you'd like to earmark your donation to this important cause.

Ron Nelson of downstate Bishop Hill was called in to help direct the original restoration. "This one really impresses me because it was a little guy's cabin," Nelson said, explaining that the cabin belonged to an ordinary man working his ordinary farm. The typical progression of use for such structures was from house to granary to livestock shelter, "and then, when it was of no more use, you'd run it through the stove for heat that winter."

Family history and evidence in the cabin itself show that it went through most of that cycle, except the stove. As a result, "this was probably the last free-standing (cabin) in the county," local historian and retired Society administrator Nancy Fike has said. Measuring just 16 by 18 feet, the cabin was the birthplace of at least one of Gannon's eight children, James, whose own son, Ed, donated it to the historical society in 1966.

Mystery Photo (again!)

BY DON ROSE

Submit your answers to: don@mchenrycountyhistory.org

Apparently, the last Mystery Photo challenge truly was a doozy!

I've received a total of zero guesses, so here's the photo of the ladies once again. I've tweaked some clues here to make this much easier.

Woodstock's own Don Peasley captured these McHenry County ladies, all trying to win a dairy industry title in the 1960's. The lovely winner is in the back row.

Here's your mission: Come up with as many of these answers as possible:

1) What year was this? 2) What title did they all hope to win? 3) Winner's name. 4) Her hometown? 5) Name five or more entrants pictured, including the position of each in the photograph.

Early Photographs WANTED

In these pages, you'll continue to see photographs depicting local history, our Society & museum history, our generous members, the many hours of dedicated volunteer activity, decades of staff and board member work, speakers, events, celebrations and cooperation with other McHenry County nonprofits and regional local history organizations.

We're always looking for more images from you.

Send them to don@mchenrycountyhistory.org

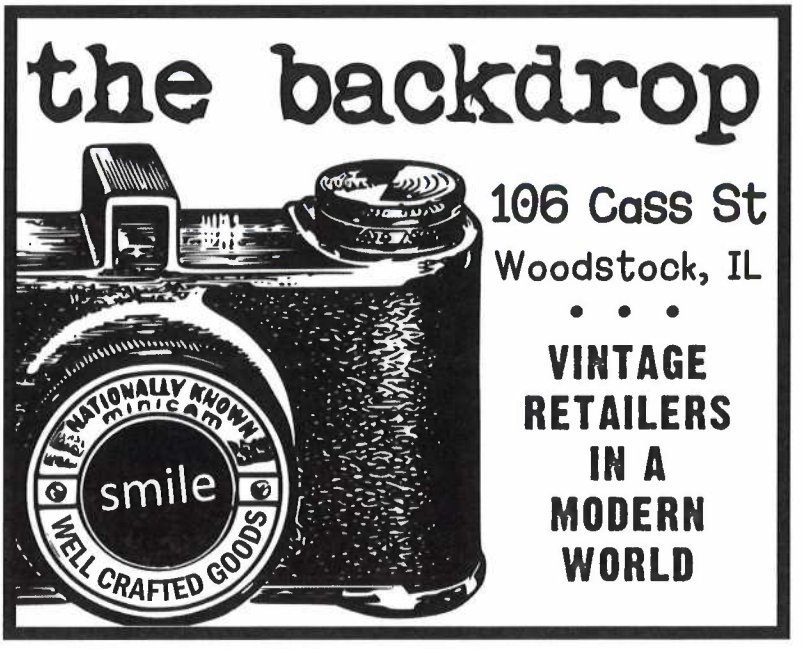
Join our Board:

mchenrycountyhistory.org/board-opportunities

Reminder: 2026 will mark the **250th anniversary** of America's founding, and the **50th anniversary** of our museum's opening.

Visit this site: **< america250.org >** to learn more

For all of us at MCHS, 2026 will be a **BIG** year. Stay tuned and get involved!



Tracer

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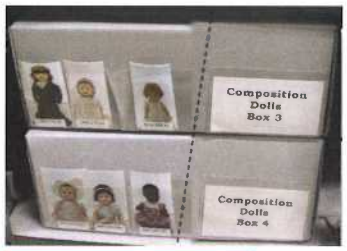

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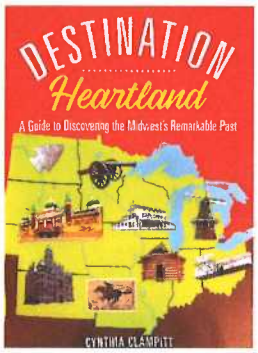
Kira's first Curator's Corner Column!



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Our first local history book review!

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Visit Rachel's MCHS Research Library Blog:
mchslibraryblog.blogspot.com

HELP STILL NEEDED

Our research library CONTINUES to LOOK for donations of the Fox Valley Mirror magazine, **especially 1930s** issues. FVM was published in Carpentersville from 1932 to 1947.

FYI: Over 1200 items available online here:
woodstockpubliclibraryarchives.omeka.net

New in our Research Library...

- King, Russell, *200 Pictures of Silos and Barns in McHenry County*, 2023, 251p illustrated
- Randall, Gordon, *Book of Designs for School Houses and Suggestions As to Obtaining Plans and How to Heat and Ventilate School Buildings*, 1883 (2015), 98p illustrated

- U.S Heritage Group, *Historic McHenry County Courthouse and Sheriff's Jail: Masonry Condition Assessment*, 2017

- Swinson, Gary, *Notes on the Old Barber Cemetery, Riley Township, McHenry County Illinois, 1994*, 2006